Will You Hit The Next ROYAL FLUSH?
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MIRACLE ON YONGE STREET
MISSION HELPING WHERE NEEDED {page 34}

CAN WE BE FRIENDS?
RYAN & SCARLETT
{page 29}

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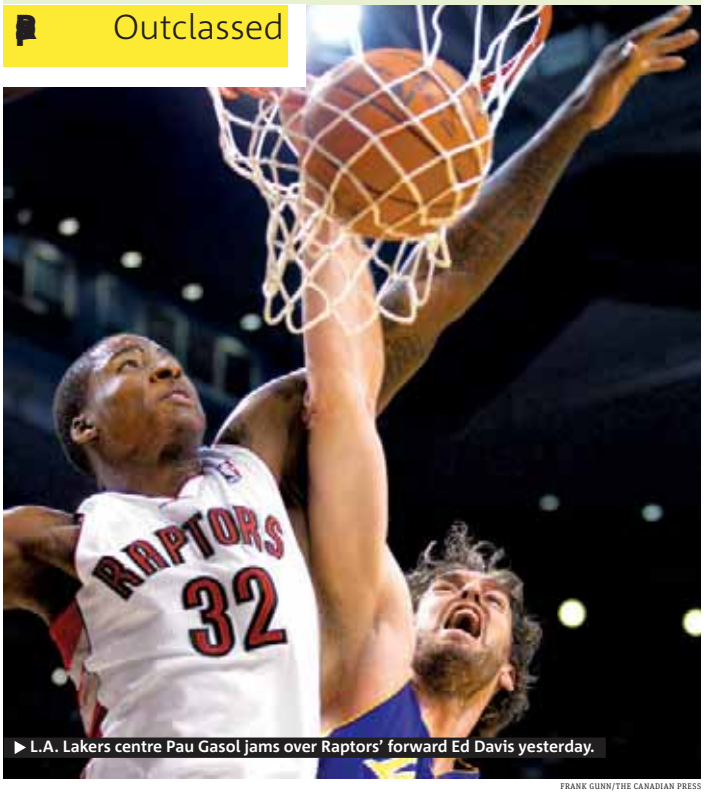

▶ L.A. Lakers centre Pau Gasol jams over Raptors' forward Ed Davis yesterday.

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lakers handle Raptors, 120-110

The Lakers bench contributed 57 points as the defending NBA champs ended their eastern road swing with a 10-point victory. Story, page 38.

The poor get poorer

Poverty, hunger at 'crisis point,' according to coalition {page 3}

RSVP a thing of the past?

The common courtesy of a reply fading away {page 30}

Forty-one years on the GO

- GO Transit honours its longest regular rider
- Virgil Duff retiring this week after 1,002,750 km
- Finds concept of bumper-to-bumper traffic 'idiotic'

"Clear the doors, please, clear the doors. Union Station our next station stop. Union Station."

Most of the 4,700 GO Train commuters who routinely board the green and white trains at the Burlington station can probably recite the public address stop calls in their sleep.

But imagine if you had heard those same station announcements every weekday for 41 years.

Welcome to Virgil Duff's commute. All 1,002,750 kilometres of it, the equivalent of going around the world 25 times.

But the end of the commuting line is coming on Christmas Eve. That's when the Toronto University Press editor will disembark at Union Station, take the subway to his Bloor Street office, officially retire and end his reign as the longest regular GO rider among the 55 million people who use the service annually.

Duff recalls in the early days he could smoke on the train. And for a time he would see the same commuters every weekday morning. But as they moved to new jobs or retired, Duff turned to newspapers and puzzles. At Union Station, GO Transit president Gary McNeil greets his most loyal customer with a warm handshake and best wishes.

With the end in sight, Duff isn't looking back, but forward. He hopes to volunteer with the CNIB, reading to the blind and visually impaired, and spend time with a nine-month-old grandchild and another due in July. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"I've done it and I've done it loyally and faithfully for 41 years. But I'm looking forward to not having to get up and do it."
VIRGIL DUFF ON RIDING THE GO TRAIN

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Hunger is at 'crisis point'

- Panel puts together top recommendations to stop poor going hungry
- Recession Relief Coalition's full report expected in January

JOHN R. KENNEDY/FOR METRO

▶ Lukas Zetterlund, left, and Ola Oshdowu put together hampers of food yesterday at the North York Harvest Food Bank. The food bank is in the middle of its winter food drive, the largest of the year.

growing rate of hunger is by increasing wages, investing in income security programs, providing affordable housing and improving access to community food programs, according to a list of recommendations to be released today.

The Recession Relief Coalition is releasing 10 top recommendations that are key to combatting the troubling rise of hunger in the province. They are geared toward policy-makers at all levels of government.

"Hunger and poverty are at a crisis point," said Dr. Gary Bloch, a family physician with St. Michael's Hospital and assistant professor with the University of Toronto, who helped draft the recommendations.

"We are facing the highest levels of food bank use and some of the highest rates of social assistance use ever," said Bloch, noting his practice is largely comprised of people living below the poverty line and struggling for basic survival.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Recommended

- Employers pay a living wage.
- Ontario implement a substantial increase to social assistance rates.
- Ottawa provide access to Employment Insurance beyond the 50-week maximum until the recession ends and lower threshold of eligibility to 360 hours.
- Ontario maintain the Special Diet Allowance at current funding levels.
- MPs vote for Bill C-304 to enact a plan to increase safe, affordable housing.
- Food banks remove restrictions to access based on postal code, previous visits and identification.
- All levels of government include health as a measurement of impact of social policy decisions.
- All levels of government consider long-term cost to the health system of not addressing poverty now.
- Invest in community-based organizations to create food hubs.
- Governments and community-based organizations consider access to food a basic human right.

Man killed after car veers into his lane

Toronto police are investigating a collision that killed one man and injured another in the city's east end Saturday night.

Police say a 55-year-old man was driving north on McCowan Road near Meldazy Drive when another car heading south veered across the centre line and struck his vehicle head-on.

The man was pronounced dead at the scene.

The other driver, a 36-year-old man, was taken to hospital with minor injuries. Police say it's unclear why his car suddenly crossed into the northbound lanes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man struck by TTC bus dies

A 66-year-old man struck by a Toronto Transit Commission bus last weekend has died in hospital.

The man, whose name has not been released, was crossing Danforth Road at St. Clair Avenue East when he was hit by a southbound bus on Dec. 11.

Police say he died Saturday.

His death is the 40th traffic fatality in Toronto this year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper plays Santa

Kids at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children have received an early Christmas present from the prime minister.

Stephen Harper delivered an air hockey table to one of the hospital's recreational rooms Saturday morning.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

1 news

'Undocumented and unafraid' students ramp up political theatre in the U.S. Scan code for the story.

1 Download the free ScanLife application with your smartphone at 2dscan.com

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Bank of Canada will keep a close eye on this week's release of inflation data for the end of 2010. Video at metronews.ca.

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ZONING BYLAW

Clarifying parking rules

Toronto is moving to clear up confusion over how many cars people can park in their driveways.

City council voted to send the issue to the Jan. 27 planning and growth management committee meeting where citizens will be given a chance to have their say.

Coun. John Filion said the city was pursuing a well-intentioned goal of discouraging homeowners from parking cars indiscriminately.

In a recent revamp of Toronto's zoning bylaw, a change was made to say you must park within seven metres from the front of the house.

What wasn't highlighted is the seven-metre restriction applies only to new homes, not existing ones, Filion said.

But now the planners are proposing to drop the seven-metre rule entirely, said Joe D'Abramo of the city planning department.

The upshot is that you can park as many cars as will fit on your driveway, assuming it hasn't been illegally widened, he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Blame your birthday for paying more in car tax

Speaker Frances Nunziata wished taxpayers a "Merry Christmas" when Toronto city council repealed the vehicle registration tax last week.

But for car owners with near-Christmas (or autumn) birthdays, her words ring slightly hollow.

Carmen Lee, who was born in October, said there should be a rebate for people whose birthdays are between September and January. "It's annoying," Lee said while renewing her vehicle registration at the Eaton Centre. "$60 here and $15 there, it does add up."

Council voted 39-6 to kill the $60 Personal Vehicle Tax as of Jan. 1, 2011. Council began collecting the annual fee Sept. 1, 2008. As Torontonians renewed their vehicle registration — which most people do on their birthdays — they were dinged with the extra charge.

People with birthdays between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31 will now end up paying the tax three times, while those born from Jan. 1 to Aug. 31 will only have paid twice.

Lee said she would have liked to get a rebate on her tax this year and put the extra $60 toward her Christmas shopping.

But Deputy Mayor Doug Holyday said, "The option was Jan. 1 or hold out until next September and we felt the sooner the better. I think the whole tax was a mistake."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Is the immigrant dream fading?

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Uzbek refugee Dilshod Marupov, 22, stands in front of a Toronto apartment building Friday where he was almost killed in an industrial accident a year ago. Marupov is the lone survivor of a scaffold collapse that killed four migrant workers last Christmas Eve.

Newcomers are taking longer to catch up to Canadian-born workers

Dilshod Marupov's Canadian dream died in a pile of rubble and the broken bodies of four friends.

A year ago this Christmas Eve in Toronto, Marupov and his friends heard a snap in the faulty scaffolding supporting them while pouring concrete 13 storeys above the ground. They skidded, hurtling to the ground.

Seconds later, four of his co-workers lay dead. Marupov, originally from Uzbekistan, miraculously survived. He is now 22, destitute, in agonizing pain and can barely walk.

For hundreds of years, the immigrant dream has always been: Come to Canada, work hard and eventually establish a decent life for your family.

But over the past 30 years, newcomers have found it more difficult to make ends meet. Immigrant poverty is rising. Employment is precarious. More recently, the numbers of undocumented and underground workers seem to be growing.

Canada is not Europe, where marginalization of immigrants has led to race-based rioting and violence. But as people like Marupov find themselves with questionable immigration status, stuck in low-paid, unsafe jobs, observers of Canada's immigration system are asking whether we're headed in that direction.

Marupov did not enter Canada's workforce the traditional way. He came on a visitor's visa and just started working, making a refugee claim along the way. He's still waiting in a grey zone of status.

But even those who formally apply and are accepted to come to Canada as immigrants are finding life more difficult here.

The earnings gap between newcomers and Canadian-born workers used to disappear within a generation. But now, on average, it's been postponed to the second generation, says Prof. Mikal Skuterud at the University of Waterloo.

"For recent cohorts, the gap is never completely closing." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cause for worry

▶ Analysts say the low quality of jobs is keeping newcomers down, along with the fact that underground guest workers are probably competing for jobs against the immigrants of five years ago, pulling down wages for newcomers generally.

Race issue can't be ignored: Analysts

As analysts dissect the data to figure out why it is that newcomers to Canada these days are having a much harder time than previous generations of immigrants, they say reluctantly that discrimination can't be completely ruled out.

Part of the answer is that Canadian employers are often suspicious of foreign credentials and experience. So immigrants who, on paper, look equivalent to Canadians in education and background, aren't valued as highly, says Mikal Skuterud at the University of Waterloo.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Stranded by snow in Europe

Canadians stuck at airports in Britain, France as inclement weather wreaks havoc with air travel Passengers left to sleep on terminal floors

Heavy snow and a buildup of ice have shut down many European airport runways, causing travel headaches for Canadians looking to cross the Atlantic.

London's Heathrow Airport stopped accepting arrivals and was allowing few departures yesterday, forcing the cancellation of several transatlantic flights to and from Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver.

Paris' Charles de Gaulle scrapped about 40 per cent of its flights, which led to the cancellation of flights in Toronto and Montreal as well.

Air Canada has warned customers flying to and from London and Paris to expect delays and cancellations up until Monday.

The airline also urged customers to avoid all non-essential travel.

Rishi Patel is just one among a number of Canadians stranded in London due to the harsh weather.

"It's extremely frustrating. I just want to come home," said the 18-year-old Toronto resident who studies medicine in the U.K.

"It was just chaos," he said of the disgruntled passengers who grew more frustrated as they were shuttled from one area to another to make alternative arrangements.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pearson. Avril

▶ Singer Avril Lavigne and boyfriend Brody Jenner wait for their ride at Pearson International Airport on Saturday.

TODD GILLIS/FOR METRO

Celebrities out in the cold

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Canadian soldier's combat death first in over 3 months

154 Canadian soldiers killed in Afghan mission
With latest death, 700 foreign troops have died in Afghanistan this year
521 were killed in 2009

Canadian soldiers bid farewell to one of their own at a ceremony at Kandahar Airfield that marked an end to one of the military's longest stretches without a combat death since deploying to southern Afghanistan.

Pallbearers carried the casket of Cpl. Steve Martin across the moonlit tarmac and loaded it onto a military aircraft as the piper's skirl pierced the chilly midnight air.

Martin, 24, was killed by an improvised explosive device, or IED, while on foot patrol early Saturday afternoon, local time.

He died two days before his 25th birthday.

Martin was serving with

HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Cpl. Steve Martin

Parachute Company of the 1st Battalion Royal 22e Regiment battle group, based at CFB Valcartier, Quebec.

His company deployed to the restive Panjwaii district last month.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of the fallen soldier during this difficult time," said Brig.-Gen. Dean Milner, commander of Canadian troops in Afghanistan.

Martin was on patrol near a road that NATO forces are carving in the horn of Panjwaii, an area that until recently was dominated by the Taliban and used as a staging point for attacks toward the provincial capital.

Saturday's attack shattered a period of relative calm in the troubled Panjwaii district, where most of Canada's troops are based. THE CANADIAN PRESS

13 die in Mexico pipeline blast

Authorities say a pipeline operated by Mexico's state-owned oil company has exploded in the central state of Puebla, killing at least 13 people.

State spokesman Noe Torres said that the explosion happened at a Petroleos Mexicanos duct, where thieves were attempting to steal either gas or oil.

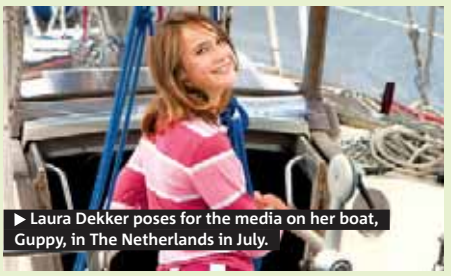
He says it isn't yet known whether the explosion was caused by the attempted theft. No one has been detained.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hundreds flee

State spokesman Noe Torres said that the initial explosion early yesterday in the city of San Martin Texmelucan was followed by four minor blasts.

▶ Hundreds of people fled the city, located 90 kilometres east of Mexico City.



▶ Laura Dekker poses for the media on her boat, Guppy, in The Netherlands in July.

AROUND THE WORLD

DUTCH ADVENTURER DROPS ANCHOR

A 15-year-old Dutch sailor yesterday completed the longest leg so far of her attempted circumnavigation of the globe, saying it felt "really weird" to be back on dry land after nearly three weeks out in the ocean.

Laura Dekker, aiming to become the youngest person to sail solo around the world, was in good spirits after completing the 4,074-kilometre trip from the Cape Verde Islands off West Africa to St. Maarten, a Dutch territory in the southern Caribbean.

Dekker anchored her ketch just outside Simpson Bay Lagoon after what she called "a very nice trip" so far.

Dekker's venture stirred an intense debate about whether young people should be allowed to sail the world's oceans alone. A Dutch court originally blocked the voyage and only permitted her to set off after she took measures to manage the risks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Holiday gift from the heavens

The year's only total lunar eclipse will occur tonight or tomorrow depending on where you live. North and Central America and a tiny sliver of South America will have the best view. The eclipse is expected to last 3 1/2 hours. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HERIBERT PROEPPER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ The lunar eclipse from Jan. 2001.

Light and dark

During a total lunar eclipse, the full moon passes through the shadow created by the Earth, blocking the sun's light.

- **Total eclipse** begins at 2:41 a.m. EST tomorrow.
- **The totality phase** — when the moon is entirely inside Earth's shadow — will last a little over an hour.

Gay advocates now fighting for marriage

Overturning ban on gay troops a civil rights milestone: Supporters

Allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the U.S. military is a step toward equality, advocates say, but a fight for other social changes such as gay marriage still lies ahead.

The Senate voted Saturday to end the 17-year-old ban on openly gay troops, overturning the Clinton-era policy known as "don't ask, don't tell."

"It's one step in a very long process of becoming an equal rights citizen," said Warren Arbury of Savannah, Georgia, who served in the Army for seven years, including three combat tours, before being kicked out two years ago under the policy. He said he planned to re-enlist once the policy is abolished.

The ruling drew quick rebuke from foes of lifting the ban who argued that the military shouldn't be used to expand the rights of gays and that allowing them to serve openly would hurt troop morale and a unit's ability to fight. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New rules

Repeal means that gays will be openly accepted by the military and can acknowledge their sexual orientation without fear of being discharged.

- **More than 13,500** service members have been dismissed under the 1993 law that forced gay men and women in the military to hide their sexual identity.

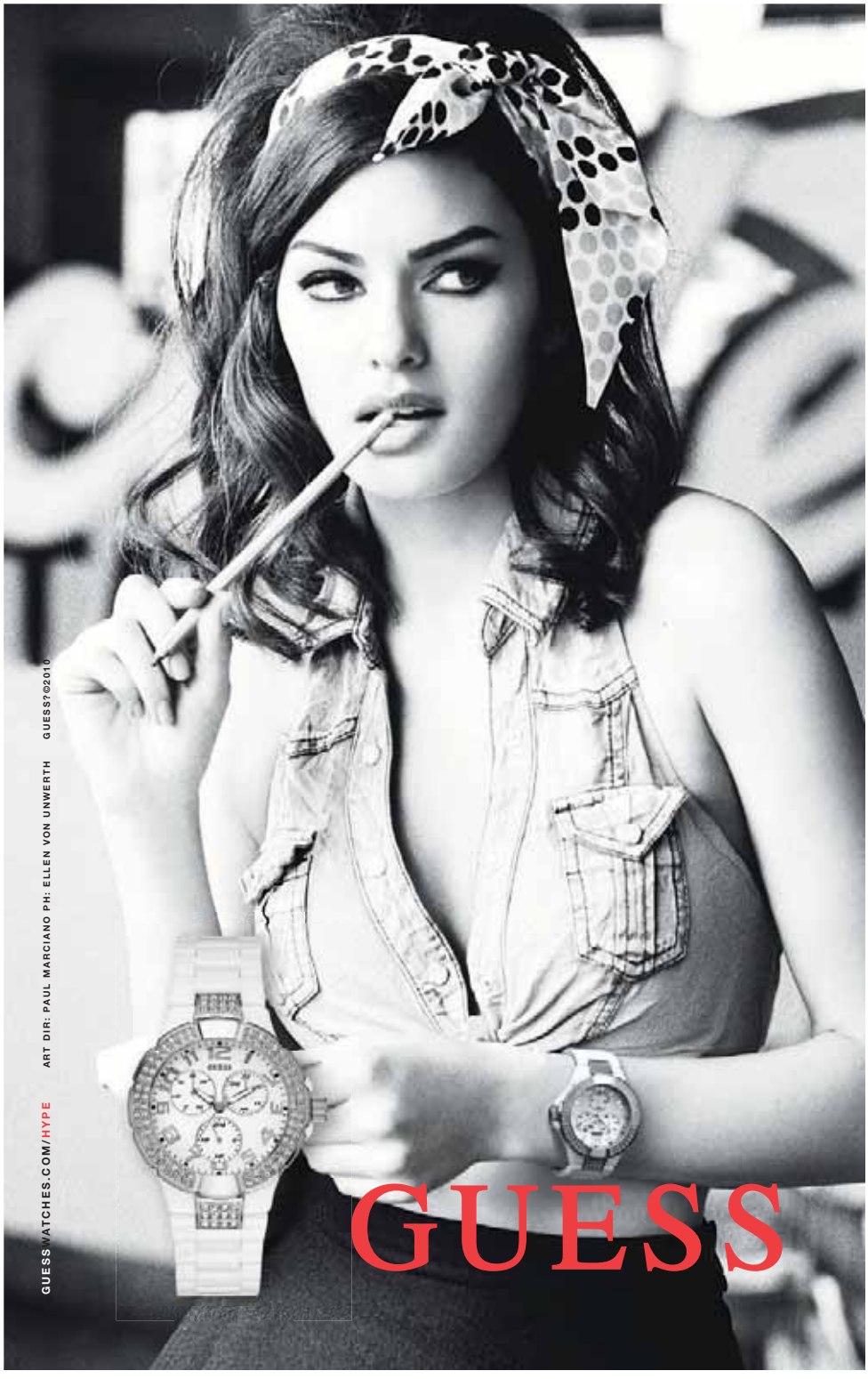
Pakistan. China

▶ Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, left, delivers a speech at Parliament in Islamabad, Pakistan, yesterday.

XINHUA, LIU WEIBING/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Longtime Asian allies

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao addressed Pakistan's National Assembly on the final day of a state visit that focused on trade and business ties between the countries. The two sides agreed to 35 new pacts.



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Fired Iran minister lets loose on president

Manouchehr Mottaki's relationship with Mahmoud Ahmadinejad long appeared to be fraught with tensions

"Dismissing a minister during a mission is un-Islamic, undiplomatic and offensive. I was never informed."
MANOUCHEHR MOTTAKI

Iran's former foreign minister criticized the president yesterday for abruptly firing him last week in the middle of an official visit to Africa, saying the dismissal was "un-Islamic, undiplomatic and offensive," according to a local media report.

The former minister Manouchehr Mottaki said he was caught unaware when President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced the decision to fire him while he was away on a diplomatic mission in Senegal, Mehr news agency reported. Ahmadinejad appointed nuclear chief Ali Akbar Salehi as acting foreign minister.

Mottaki added his criticism to an outcry by parliament members who rival Ahmadinejad from within his own conservative camp. He said that he was not told about the dismissal before or during his trip.

On Saturday, Mohammad Reza Rahimi, Iran's first vice-president, claimed during a farewell ceremony for Mottaki that he knew he was going to be replaced ahead of his Africa trip. Mottaki did not attend the ceremony and said yesterday he was not informed about it, calling the planning "ridiculous."

Ali Motahari, one of the lawmakers opposed to Ahmadinejad, told Khabaronline news website yesterday that Mottaki learned about his dismissal from Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade.

"The president (Ahmadinejad) did not have such a right. I hope he will have a convincing response for this," he said.

In the past few months, Mottaki had challenged Ahmadinejad's plan to appoint his own special foreign envoys to key areas such as the Middle East, Afghanistan and the Caspian Sea region. Mottaki won that round after reportedly getting Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to intervene.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

107 men linked to child porn in Austria

Suspects

- The men are aged 18 to 70 and "come from all sectors of society," an official said.

Austrian authorities have seized child pornography from 107 men, including five teachers, officials said yesterday.

The material was discovered during house searches that were part of a probe that began a year ago when Luxembourg authorities determined that 163 Austrian IP addresses had accessed a child porn website they were monitoring, said a federal Austrian spokesman. Only 107 could be traced.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Election day turns violent in Belarus

SERGEI GRITS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Protesters rally in Minsk, Belarus.

Thousands of opposition supporters in Belarus tried to storm the main government building to protest what they claim was large-scale vote-rigging in yesterday's presidential election, but they were driven back and beaten by riot police.

Up to 40,000 rallied in Minsk to call for authoritarian leader Alexander Lukashenko to step down. But it was all over within hours as police cleared the demonstrators.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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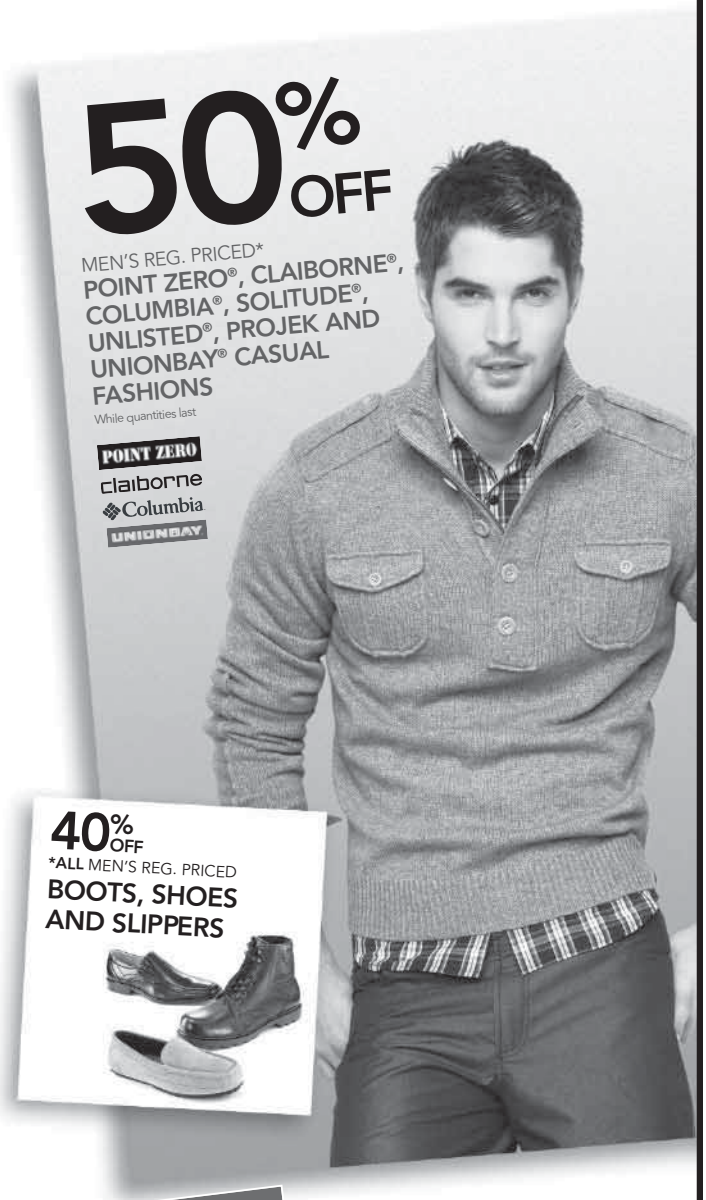

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Security Council meets to quiet the two Koreas

- North Korea warns South of a 'catastrophe'
- Russia calls for efforts to 'de-escalate the tension'

The UN Security Council met in emergency session yesterday amid rising tensions on the Korean Peninsula and a North Korean warning of a "catastrophe" if South Korea goes ahead with a live-fire drill.

Russia called for the meeting, and Moscow wants the UN's most powerful body to adopt a statement calling on North Korea and South Korea "to exercise maximum restraint."

The North has warned of "catastrophe" if the South goes ahead with plans to conduct one-day, live-fire drills by tomorrow on the same front-line island the North shelled last month as the South conducted a similar exercise.

A draft presidential statement circulated by Russia to council members and obtained by The Associated Press also stresses the need for efforts "to ensure a de-escalation of tension" between the two Koreas and a "resumption of dialogue and resolution of all problems dividing them exclusively through peaceful diplomatic means."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rising concern

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called the Nov. 23 North Korean attack on the tiny island of Yeonpyeong "one of the gravest provocations since the end of (the) Korean War" in 1953.

- **The UN Security Council** is meeting behind closed doors.
- **The Council** also heard a briefing from UN political chief B. Lynn Pascoe on the situation in the Koreas.

Spanish. Tradition

▶ Children sit on the laps of men representing the Three Wise Men to ask for presents at Christmas, in Madrid, Spain, yesterday.

PAUL WHITE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Does that mean the kids get gold?

In Spain the Three Wise Men traditionally bring presents to the children and are more popular than Santa Claus.

Suspect may have fled: Police

Ottawa police have issued a Canada-wide warrant in the city's 10th homicide of the year. Eighteen-year-old Mohamed Wehbe of Ottawa is accused of second-degree murder in the shooting death of 16-year-old Yazden Ghiasvand Ghiasi. Investigators fear Wehbe may have fled the country. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wounded dog adopts stray kitten

Rescuers say the cat acts like a dog.

For instructions on how to scan this story, go to page 3.

Hotel blaze kills 15 in Philippines

A fire rapidly swept through a budget hotel in the northern Philippines early yesterday burning to death 15 people — several crammed in bathrooms where they fled in panic.

Nine of the victims were nursing students in town to take a licensing exam.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Jean optimistic that Haiti can be rebuilt

Nearly one year since deadly quake hits her homeland Says reconstruction will begin in the classroom

With her sleeves rolled up, Michaelle Jean is laying the groundwork for what she hopes will lift her native Haiti from the rubble — once and for all.

But Canada's former governor general says lots of work remains nearly a year after an earthquake crumpled buildings and shattered lives in her homeland.

Jean, now a United Nations special envoy to Haiti, says it's difficult for Haitians to see tangible results of the country's sluggish reconstruction.

"People are very frustrated right now," Jean told The Canadian Press in a telephone interview.

Michaelle Jean

"Unfortunately, we will commemorate the earthquake one year later, and Haitians have not seen many signs that would make them believe that the work has begun."

Recent violence triggered by Haiti's contested presidential election and a deadly, ongoing cholera epidemic have compounded the challenges.

But Jean is optimistic the country will get back on its feet, even though tent cities still occupy public squares and food and drinking water remain scarce for many.

A quality, universally accessible education system, Jean says, will empower Haitians to rebuild their country themselves.

"Afterward, people can say, 'We are the ones who did it,' and they can take ownership of it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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▶ Vito Caputo, owner of Retro Rock Vintage Clothing, poses with a Christmas sweater at his store in Vancouver, B.C.

Ugly Christmas garb threads lucrative shop

’Tis the season to troll second-hand shops in search of heinous sweaters ◐ Tacky holiday attire is in

This year, Ugly Christmas Sweater parties have turned the “what’s not” into “what’s hot.”

“Every year, the world is injected with more tacky sweaters — they tend to resurface, you can find different designs at thrift stores, and people do enjoy handmaking them too,” said Kyle Reagan, a 25-year-old Vancouverite whose home business selling cheesy holiday attire snowballed into a full-time job in just two years.

“I think it’s a greatly emerging trend and we’re nowhere near the cap of what the Christmas sweater parties are going to achieve over the coming years.”

Reagan knew he was onto something horribly magical when he hunted down 20 sweaters, put them up for sale on online classified site Craigslist and they were snapped up in a week. Over the next year, he picked up even more freakish finds, peddling them on his own website.

This year, along with the hefty pile of vintage pieces, he hand-crafted his own ghastly garb complete with glued-on ornaments and blinking LED lights. Every penny from sales of the 200-plus sweaters will be reinvested so that next season, he and his little helpers can be ready to ship thousands. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The charmer

The style has taken a turn for the better — or worse — since 2001, when a red-faced Colin Firth sported a black Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer jumper as Mark Darcy in Bridget Jones’s Diary.

IVORY COAST

Hundreds abducted, UN says

The United Nations said yesterday it has received hundreds of reports of people being abducted from their homes at night by armed assailants in military uniform and that there is growing evidence of “massive violations of human rights” since Ivory Coast’s disputed election.

The statement from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights came a day after the UN said it would remain in Ivory Coast despite demands from the man refusing to give up the presidency that thousands of peacekeepers get out of the West African country.

International pressure is mounting for Laurent Gbagbo to concede defeat to opposition leader Alassane Ouattara, whose victory has been recognized by the United Nations, the United States, former colonizer France and the African Union.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Senate OKs bill to stay afloat

The U.S. Senate’s top Republican says he and the Democratic leader have agreed on a spending measure to keep the government running through March. Passing the bill — known as a “continuing resolution” — would prevent the government from running out of money for daily operations and forcing a shutdown.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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News in brief

Man arrested after standoff

PARIS, ONT. A 14-hour standoff ended after police arrested one man. Police were called to a home around 4:20 p.m. Saturday. They say a man and a woman inside the home were in a heated argument. Emergency response workers managed to get into the house around 6:35 a.m. yesterday. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Explosives, firearms seized

TIMMINS, ONT. A 26-year-old man is in custody after police seized a cache of explosives and some 70 firearms from his home near Timmins.

Police executing a public safety warrant at the home found a number of explosive devices early Friday. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Gay debate comes out of the UN closet

Scan code for story

Palestinians vow no more violence

Outreach comes at time when negotiations seem stuck

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas hosted dozens of Israeli legislators and activists yesterday, and urged them to relay a simple message to the Israeli public — he is serious about negotiating a peace deal and the Palestinians will never again resort to violence.

He also appealed to the visitors for help. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

MAJDI MOHAMMED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Officials meet with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, seated, yesterday.

U.S. tourist killed in Israel

Israeli police found the body of a female American tourist, with multiple stab wounds and her hands bound behind her back, in a forest outside Jerusalem yesterday in what authorities believe was a politically-motivated attack by two Arab men. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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U FOR CHANGE UNCOVERS POTENTIAL

Urban Compass

CAROLYN MORRIS

In a large, open space building in St. James Town, large plywood boards display photographs of buildings, flowers, dogs and people. At the back of the room, graffiti art projects onto the wall, and on a couple of Macs, 2-D animation videos play in loops.

It's show and tell for U for Change, an arts and community development program for teens and young adults in the neighbourhood — one of the city's poorest. The educational initiative is funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (the area is also one of the city's most diverse) and is in the second year of a three-year pilot project.

Cleyon Jarvis tells me about the video documentary he's working on for the program. It's about the fire at 200 Wellesley St. E. in September, which kept hundreds of residents out of their homes for a month.

"I always wanted to direct movies," he says, "but I didn't know how to get there."

He tells me he was that kid in high school who would sit at the back of the class. The one with no goals, no ambition. In fact, he spent more time on the street than in the classroom, and at 23 years old he was still trying to graduate from high school.

Then, he talked to a U for Change staff member, who was at his school promoting the program and convinced him to go after his dream.

"Here," he says, "I'm always in the front, asking questions." His next step is film school.

Sarah ElRaheb, the organization's education director, is beaming tonight. She tells me that the biggest gift this program gives is confidence.

"When you're poor — hard up for money and living in an area that's rough, it's easy to fall into things that don't match up with your potential."

But this program shows people how much they are capable of.

Keshia Santana St. Louis, 25, shows me her 2-D video. A couple of pencil-sketched men shoot guns at one another until a female villain-like character bombards them with machine-guns. Only hers are armed with peace and turn the fighters into hippies.

St. Louis tells me her goal is to work for Pixar or Dreamworks — "You'll see my name at the end of movies," she says.

She's off to a good start. Along with this program she studied 3-D animation at Herzing College and is starting an internship at a photography and cinema production company.

All this despite losing access to her home for more than a month — she is a resident of 200 Wellesley St. E. Members of the program helped out with clothes and money for her and three other students from the building, and she was still able to make her deadlines.

Contact Carolyn Morris at urbancompass@metronews.ca

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Device targets drunks

Worth mentioning

Intoximeter

TROY FLEECE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

There's a long, steady beeping sound as a Mountie encourages a young woman to breathe into a plastic mouthpiece connected to the next generation in breath testing technology.

The young woman and half a dozen other people in the room who have been drinking are not in trouble. They are helping nearly 20 officers at the RCMP training academy in Regina learn how to use the new Intoximeter.

The device uses infrared and fuel-cell technologies. It's an upgrade from the old device, which just uses infrared to give readings. The new Intoximeter will be used when suspected drunk drivers are taken back to the police station or detachment, not at the side of the road.

It will catch the experienced drinkers who are otherwise good at masking symptoms of being drunk, said RCMP Cpl. Michael Benjamin, a veteran traffic services officer from Weyburn, Sask.

"You see a lot of guys that have developed such a tolerance that they're not slurring their speech," he said. "Their eyes aren't glazed. They're not showing the typical signs of somebody who'd be in the upper 100s, the lower 200s for readings, and they're talking and acting as normal."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

What's more fun – Christmas or New Year's Eve?

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Metro Minute with snowshoeing

Today is the last day of fall (try to stifle your laughter) before winter wallops us with a three-month snow bath. What's that you say? It's already snowed more this month than all of last winter combined? In that case, there's only one thing to do: Strap on those snowshoes and make friends with the enemy. Because there's no better way to feel like a true Canadian than stuffing your frozen tootsies into a pair of inverted tennis rackets.

If you don't have an entire room in your basement dedicated to these wintry appendages, you can rent them for $5 a day at Enduro Sport (94 Laird Dr.) and hit the iced-over roads. JORDANA DIVON

▶ Rent a pair of snowshoes and hit the road. Chances are you'll make it to work faster than you would in your car. Local rentals are available at endurosport.com.

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Investors await year-end reports, look ahead to '11

- European debt crisis will also focus investor attention
- Moody's hints at downgrading Spain's public debt

The Toronto stock market could be in for a quiet week as trading winds down ahead of the Christmas-New Year's holidays.

But investors will look forward to key economic reports during the week to see how the Canadian and U.S. economies fared during the last months of 2010, along with data on Canadian inflation.

Statistics Canada releases its November reading on the Consumer Price Index tomorrow and it could provide an indication on what the Bank of Canada will do about interest rates in 2011.

"That's because last month's CPI was a bit of a surprise on the high side," said Doug Porter, deputy chief economist at BMO Capital Markets.

"We've been sort of used to a diet of lower than expected consumer price reports for most of this year, and, bang, out of the blue we get this, a little bit of a jolt higher. And I think the market will be very curious to see if that was a one-off fluke or was actually the start of a higher trend for inflation."

The indications have been the Bank of Canada won't be raising rates until at least mid-2011 to deal with a slowing economy.

However, Porter noted that "opinions are all over the place on that one."

"If inflation is coming in higher than expected, it likely would bring forward the schedule of when the bank will begin to raise rates."

The agency releases its reading on October gross domestic product on Thursday and economists expect a rise following a dip during September.

"We're looking at a 0.2 per cent rise, most of the early indications that we have for the month were OK to good," he said.

"You might hope for more after sort of the sour month we had in September but that seems to be what Canada is settling into is a relatively modest growth path."

Such a month over month increase would translate into annualized economic growth of about 2.5 per cent, lower than other economic recoveries.

And Porter thinks it will be hard for the economic recovery to improve all that much as long as the United States economic growth remains tepid, despite recent data pointing out the share of total exports that go to the U.S. has come down.

There have been some encouraging signs recently.

"Certainly (U.S.) consumers are spending again," Porter noted.

"It looks like housing may be stabilizing at admittedly weak levels but it looks like it's stabilizing. Unfortunately, we did get that lousy jobs report for November for the U.S."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. FRIDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 20.23 (13,201.46)	– 0.67¢ (98.74¢ US)
Oil	**Natural gas**
+ 32¢ US ($88.02 US)	1,000 cu ft $4.066 (+ 1.8¢) Gold contracts $1,379.20 (+ $8.20)

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THIS IS NEARLY ACTUAL SIZE.

Black taking fight to top court in U.S.

Analyst says unlikely he will go back to prison when resentenced next month ◆ Appeal's chance 'long shot'

Conrad Black is determined not to return to his prison cell and will take the fight to clear his name to the U.S. Supreme Court after a lower court closed the door on an appeal of fraud and obstruction of justice convictions.

A three-judge panel in Chicago unanimously rejected Black's request for a rehearing of his appeal Friday, but did not give reasons.

Black had requested a new hearing on the grounds that an October ruling failed to properly apply a recent Supreme Court decision that narrowed the scope of a law used to convict him. But Black said he never expected the panel to agree to rehear his case and made the request as a formality. "Given the arithmetic (six judges out of 10 with three already committed), and the extreme animus of (Judge Richard) Posner, we never thought there was the slightest chance of success," Black said in an email.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

▶ Conrad Black

GREENHOUSE GASES

TOP FOUR EMITTERS ARE IN ALBERTA

New figures on greenhouse gases in Canada suggest Alberta's economy is dangerously dependent on carbon-emitting industries, experts say.

Environment Canada figures show that emissions from the province's industrial plants make up half of the country's greenhouse gases from industrial facilities, even though Alberta has just more than 10 per cent of its population.

The report, which tracks facilities that emit more than 50,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent a year, shows that between coal-fired power plants and oilsands facilities, Canada's top four emitters are in Alberta.

That leaves the province more exposed than others as the world moves to penalize carbon production in an attempt to limit global warming, said David Keith, director of the University of Calgary's Institute for Sustainable Energy, Environment and Economy.

Emissions covered by the report total about one-third of Canada's total greenhouse gases and half its industrial emissions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Belt tightening

Households reduced spending on discretionary items last year Confidence picked up later in 2009

Household spending fell last year for the first time since Statistics Canada began to track it, suggesting that Canadians were taking on debt to pay the bills during the recession rather than buy something special, economists say.

"For people that lost their jobs, the use of revolving lines of credit and other forms of credit could have been used as short-term income replacement and that might be one wedge between the debt (and spending)," said Derek Burleton, deputy chief economist at TD Economics. As a result, Canadians now owe $1.48 for every dollar of disposable income they have, according to data released last week.

Spending on goods and services was down 0.7 per cent last year as households reduced spending on discretionary items or those that could be postponed, such as recreation and household furnishings. The decline was largely a result of falling income levels, as many Canadians lost their jobs, said Avery Shenfeld, chief economist at CIBC Word Markets.

0.3

Average household spending in Canada declined 0.3 per cent to $71,120 in 2009, when the economy was paralysed by a global economic downturn that began late in 2008, according to the results of a survey released Friday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Getting it fixed

- **General Motors Co.** said the seatbelt buckle anchor for the driver and front passenger in the Chevrolet Equinox, GMC Terrain and Cadillac SRX models from 2011 could break apart in a crash, but said no crashes or injuries have been reported.
- **GM said** it discovered the problem during testing in September.
- **Canadian customers** will receive a letter from GM on or before Jan. 18 to notify them about bringing their car to their dealer for free repairs.
- **Honda owners** in Canada were spared from a global recall of 1.35 million fit models for problems with headlights on Thursday.

GM recalls crossovers, Honda owners spared

General Motors Co. is recalling more than 13,000 crossover vehicles in Canada to fix seatbelts that could fail in a crash, while Canadian Honda owners have been spared from another recall issued by that company. The Canadian recall of Chevrolet Equinox, GMC Terrain and Cadillac SRX models from 2011 is part of a larger one in the U.S., which includes about 100,000 vehicles.

Meanwhile, Canadians are not affected by a recall issued by Honda on Friday.

The company recalled about 35,000 Passport SUVs to inspect rear suspension brackets that could detach and lead to a crash. Passports were never sold in Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Product Hailed by Doctors as the Solution for Back Pain

Doctor developed decompression belt that significantly reduces back pain. Dr.Michael Ho announced, he is giving 50% off to all readers of the Metro Newspaper. Due to the Holiday rush, each household is limited to only 2 belts.

Save money and help relieve back pain: This week only. Get clinically proven back decompression belt for 50% off

By Marc Charron - *Health and Lifestyle*

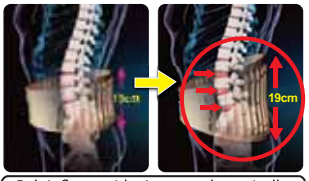
Back pain affects 80% of North Americans. It can also rob you of your happiness, where getting out of bed becomes a painful reminder of your bad back. While pills provide temporary relief, the condition can reoccur. The reason is because pills mask the symptoms and do not target the cause of the pain. Other treatments cost thousands of dollars or have substantial health risks. "That's why most people end up "living" with their bad back" - says Dr. Michael Ho.

Dr. Michael Ho is a doctor with over 20 years of clinical experience specializing in treating the cause of chronic back pain, including Scoliosis, Spinal Stenosis and Herniated / Bulging discs. His belief is to treat the cause of the problem so that patients get long term relief, earning him international recognition for his patient care and expertise.

"Many people have back pain due to spinal disc compression. This can result in back pain, which if left untreated, can lead to more serious conditions."

DRUG-FREE: DR-HO'S Decompression Belt will help relieve your back pain, naturally without the side-effects.

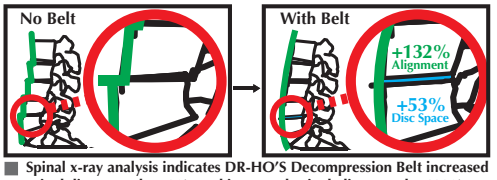
Dr. Ho has developed a back supporting decompression belt that can be used at home, allowing you to help relieve your back pain, while saving time and money. Dr.Ho's brand new Decompression Belt is endorsed by medical professionals and customers that have suffered with long-term, chronic back pain. "I have used many modalities to treat my patients, but nothing is as effective as the decompression belt. To effectively treat someone with back pain, the patient must receive treatment everyday for 6 - 8 weeks. People cannot afford the time or money to visit the doctor everyday. Therefore, your health suffers. I developed this belt because patients need a device they can use at home. By treating themselves daily, it will speed up recovery time and increase the overall effectiveness of the treatment. This belt can help protect and treat your back," says Dr.Ho.



Belt inflates with air, expands vertically, gently stretching, tractioning and relieving lower back pain

Dr.Michael Ho treats patient suffering with herniated disc, degenerated disc and over 10 years of back pain.

DR-HO'S Decompression Belt expands to help decompress the spine to provide support and help relieve the pain. The belt will help relieve your pain in as little as 20 minutes, even if you've suffered with back pain for many years - you can even wear the belt while doing activities. As an exclusive Metro Special, Dr.Ho has agreed to give the first 100 customers 50% off as well as include a free pair of Dr.Ho's Back Pain Relief Air Orthotics worth a value of $80! "The Decompression Belt will help relieve your back pain safely without the use of drugs. You don't have to live with your back pain any longer."



Spinal x-ray analysis indicates DR-HO'S Decompression Belt increased spinal disc space by 53%, and improved spinal alignment by 132%.

Patient case study result: Improved alignment & disc space Increased mobility, less pinching on nerves & significant pain relief

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Back Specialist Dr. Michel Rice

"Every patient with back pain should be wearing this belt because it gives you core strength and support in your spine, and a traction effect for great pain relief. The great thing is that patients with chronic back pain can wear this belt and get their life back. They can feel more confident, be more active, and do things that they love doing."

Alice Love

"This belt feels like the weight is taken off of you. Pain pills only mask the pain. With the belt I can be pain free. I have a grandson, who loves to be picked up. But you don't realize how much pressure that puts on your back. With my belt, I don't have to worry about picking him up!"

Belt expands to help stretch & relieve back pain

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P.J. Lemieux

The belt is very comfortable and it helps to take the stress off my lower back. I feel that I now have better posture. I can see this being used by people with chronic back pain and its so easy to do. You just strap on the belt, inflate and you can feel it work right away because it takes the stress off the lower back. You've got nothing to lose if you suffer from back pain. Definitely this is worth trying!

"Usually if I lay down this long, my back would be killing me. I have suffered with back pain for twenty years, but with this belt, I can go for long walks again."

- Marianne

FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Actresses Cloris Leachman and Martha Plimpton speak onstage during the Raising Hope panel for the Fox portion of the summer Television Critics Association press tour in August.

It's nice being a grandmother at 40

Actress Martha Plimpton has no problem playing a granny in the Fox comedy Raising Hope

TIFFANY ROSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

METRO WORLD NEWS IN HOLLYWOOD

American actress Martha Plimpton who is best known for playing quirky roles in indie movies, shot to fame in the teen classic The Goonies in 1985.

Born into a performing family — her father is Keith Carradine and her mother is Shelley Plimpton — Martha has starred in I Shot Andy Warhol, Running on Empty and Beautiful Girls. She currently plays Virginia Chance on the new Fox comedy Raising Hope, about an uneducated working class family attempting to raise a baby.

Metro caught up with the 40-year-old star in a Beverly Hills hotel.

After being a big indie actress, was it a big decision for you to chose to do a television comedy series?

It was a big decision only in the sense that it involved leaving my home city of New York for a while and having a steady gig, which is great by the way.

But as far as the decision to do it, it wasn't a tough one at all. I read the pilot and I thought it was hilarious. I loved Virginia.

What's it like playing a grandmother at the age of 40?

At first of course I was a little bit nervous because I thought, "Well, shouldn't I play a mother first?" I don't even know if I'm ready for that yet! (Laughs). And you can't forget that Hollywood does tend to age people rather rapidly so I was naturally concerned about that as any actress would be.

But that is the joke. The idea that these people have no idea what they were doing when they had their own child and that child is a father and we've got to learn how to be adequate, responsible grandparents all over again.

So in that sense I don't feel like I'm playing a grandmother — like I'm not wearing a gray wig or walking hunched over or anything like that.

What's it like having the legendary Cloris Leachman playing your grandmother?

She is an unbelievable actress and woman. So much fun.

This is a woman who ate actual shaving cream. If there is a joke to be had, nothing will stop her!

We had a scene where she is asleep and we are grooming her in the middle of the night as it's the only time she will let us. I'm shaving her legs and then she sort of pops up awake and we all hide underneath the bed.

This is entirely improvised by Cloris — she took some of this actual shaving cream, it was not whipped cream and just ate it! And she did it like for three takes.

After Aussie adventure, Oprah vacations in Fiji

BRENDON THORNE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Oprah

Fresh off an Australian tour with her frenzied talk-show fans, Oprah Winfrey is taking a respite in the South Pacific island nation of Fiji, where the military regime wished her "a great time."

Fiji's tourism minister said Winfrey was spending the Christmas holiday there and that officials wanted to respect her privacy. Local media reported she arrived Thursday and that she and longtime beau Stedman Graham were to stay until Dec. 26.

"We know she is here for a holiday and respect that, and the government obviously wants Winfrey to have a great time," Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, the tourism minister, said Saturday.

Tourism on Fiji is active, though relations with other countries have been strained by the lack of democracy since a December 2006 military coup.

Place to be

▶ Fiji has been a frequent celebrity destination in the past. Rolling Stone Keith Richards famously fell from a tree at the exclusive Wakaya Club in 2006 and was rushed to New Zealand for brain surgery.

Australia and New Zealand imposed travel bans on Fiji leaders, and international trade sanctions have been imposed, but elections have only been pushed back.

The U.S. State Department has warned Americans to carefully consider the risks of travel to Fiji and to be vigilant while there. During a visit to Australia last month, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called for democracy to be restored in Fiji and for political freedoms to advance.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 scene

News in brief

One of the stars of MTV's Jersey Shore has been indicted for an assault that prosecutors say happened just off camera during the first season.

A grand jury in Ocean County, N.J., says there's evidence that Ronald "Ronnie" Ortiz-Magro committed a crime.

The indictment was issued Thursday and made public Friday.

The grand jury said the 25-year-old reality TV star knocked a man out with a punch on Sept. 4, 2009, when the show was being filmed in Seaside Heights. While the punch wasn't shown on the show, Ortiz-Magro was seen bragging about it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Larry King, viewed by more than 2 million, triples his typical audience for farewell

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Updating Tron the West Coast way

New movie and video game created in Vancouver Game serves as prequel to the film

There's more than a little Vancouver in the futuristic worlds of the film Tron: Legacy and accompanying video game Tron: Evolution.

Both Disney projects were created there, a happy coincidence for Propaganda Games' Darren Hedges.

"From Day 1, we had access to the sets, access to the scripts, access to the talent, the directors, the producers," Hedges said in a recent interview. "We went on set, we saw them film day after day, night after night in most cases."

For game director Hedges, it was a peek into everything from how the costumes were put together to how filmmakers framed their shots.

DISNEY INTERACTIVE GAMES

▶ A screenshot from the video game Tron: Evolution.

"And that allowed us to create a very cohesive experience that spans from the video game into the movie," he said.

The original 1982 film Tron tells the story of a computer hacker who ends up being swallowed by a digital world. In the sequel, the hacker's son is transported into the Grid, the world existing inside the computer.

The new video game is a prequel to Tron: Legacy with the gamer playing a program called Anon. Hedges' team decided early on they didn't want to tell the same story.

"Luckily for us, the filmmakers were very much of a like mind," said Hedges.

The goal was a "transmedia experience."

"What we mean by this is everything feeds into the franchise, nothing really replicates itself," explained Hedges.

The end of the game leads directly to the opening of the movie — albeit separated by 200 Tron years — offering insight into the genesis of characters and why certain events unfolded the way they did.

The game, rated T for Teen for PC, PlayStation 3, Xbox 360, PSP, Nintendo Wii and DS, includes the voices of Olivia Wilde (Quorra) and Bruce Boxleitner (Tron) and music of Daft Punk from the movie.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Uploading to the No. 1 spot

Jeff Bridges' sci-fi sequel Tron: Legacy has leaped to the top of the box-office grid with a $43.6 million opening weekend.

Dan Aykroyd's family flick Yogi Bear fell flat, opening a weak No. 2 with $16.7 million.

Mark Wahlberg and Christian Bale's boxing drama The Fighter had a so-so expansion nationwide after a stellar debut in limited release the previous weekend. It came in at No. 4 with $12.2 million.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Jackie O not many people knew

When most of us think of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, we think back to the perfectly coifed first lady of the early '60s in a stylish shift, a string of pearls and a pill-box hat. Or the Jackie O of the next decade, the rich widow in huge sunglasses that shielded her from the world.

We probably don't think of a middle-aged working woman making her own photocopies, waiting in line to speak to the boss, or sitting cross-legged on the floor, arranging photos and puffing on cigarettes.

"Her editorial career was longer than her two marriages combined. It says more about who she was as a person, because this is something she actually chose to do." WILLIAM KUHN

Yet this was her third act — the Jackie who joined the workforce in her mid-40s and spent nearly two decades as a book editor. By all accounts, it was one of the most satisfying periods of her life.

"She didn't do this just to have a job," says Bruce Tracy, a former colleague at the Doubleday publishing house. "She loved this. This is what she was passionate about."

Suddenly, in a span of just a month, two new books are examining this little-known part of her life, giving readers a new slant on a woman who has fascinated Americans like no other in our history.

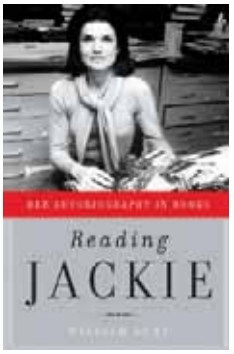
"People think about Jackie's clothes, about her marriages, maybe her redecorating the White House," says historian William Kuhn, author of Reading Jackie: Her Autobiography in Books, released this month. "But her editorial career was longer than her two marriages combined. It says more about who she was as a person, because this is something she actually chose to do."

Of course, she didn't need the work. Kuhn notes how women of Jackie's generation were taught to be great wives and great mothers, making it all the more striking that she would choose to learn a new career so relatively late in life. "It speaks to a kind of quiet feminism that she and other women of her generation had," he says.

Jackie was 46 when she was hired at Viking Press, not long after the 1975 death of Aristotle Onassis. Clearly Viking wanted her for her name. And her early efforts — she spent only two years there, before moving to Doubleday — were a learning process. But her productivity skyrocketed as the years went on. "Yes, some of this was handed to Jackie," says Kuhn, whose book is being published by Doubleday itself. "But the fact is she amassed a list of books that publishing professionals are in awe of today."

That list includes books on everything from art to European and American history to photography to fashion to religion. It includes children's books by Carly Simon, and Michael Jackson's autobiography Moonwalk. She worked on a trilogy by the Egyptian writer Naguib Mahfouz, several books by Bill Moyers, and a series of Tiffany style books.

And then there was her well-documented love of dance, particularly ballet, which led to the bestseller Dancing on My Grave, by ballerina Gelsey Kirkland and her husband, author Greg Lawrence. Working with her on the book, an account of Kirkland's descent into drug addiction, was "a humbling experience," says Lawrence, who next month comes out with Jackie as Editor: The Literary Life of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.



Lawrence recalls how at an introductory lunch with the couple, Jackie burst into tears at their story, saying, "I want to do this book!"

"Jackie fought for us," says Lawrence. "That's what I really admired about her. She had to fight for her books." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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No drama for Ryan, Scarlett

Couple recently went public with decision to split

Ryan Reynolds

They may have announced their separation last week, but Ryan Reynolds and Scarlett Johansson looked mighty amicable during dinner at a New York restaurant this weekend, according to People.

"They just wanted to connect and have a friendly chat," a source says.

"The tone was light and fun, despite the untruths that the media is working up. They aren't reconciling. This was just two people who were married being civil and friendly." METRO

Jolie-Pitts spending Christmas on the road

Despite spending most of the autumn on the road, Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt won't be coming home for the holidays.

"We're going to travel with the kids and go to a random part of the world," Jolie tells Ryan Seacrest during a radio interview. "We're going to travel and have an adventure because that's what we love to do."

The biggest challenge for Jolie, whether at home or abroad, is keeping gifts straight for all six of her kids. "I've got it all boxed and ready to go," she says. "I'm trying to get every stocking right." METRO

Miller, Law picking up where they left off

The second time around seems to be agreeing with Jude Law and Sienna Miller, as the British actors have reportedly been living together for the past month, according to the Daily Mail.

The pair reportedly went in together on the purchase of a super-private $12 million, seven-bedroom home in north London.

Sources say the pair, who were engaged previously before Law had an affair with his nanny, are discussing marriage once again. METRO

Johnny stealing hearts on the set of 'Pirates'

Although Johnny Depp has been with Vanessa Paradis for 12 years — and has two children with her — that didn't stop him from reportedly getting friendly and flirtatious with a model on the set of the new Pirates of the Caribbean film, according to Star magazine.

Kristen Stephenson-Pino tells the magazine Depp took special interest in her, watching the makeup department make a mold of her breasts, joking about being intimate together and even inviting her back to his trailer.

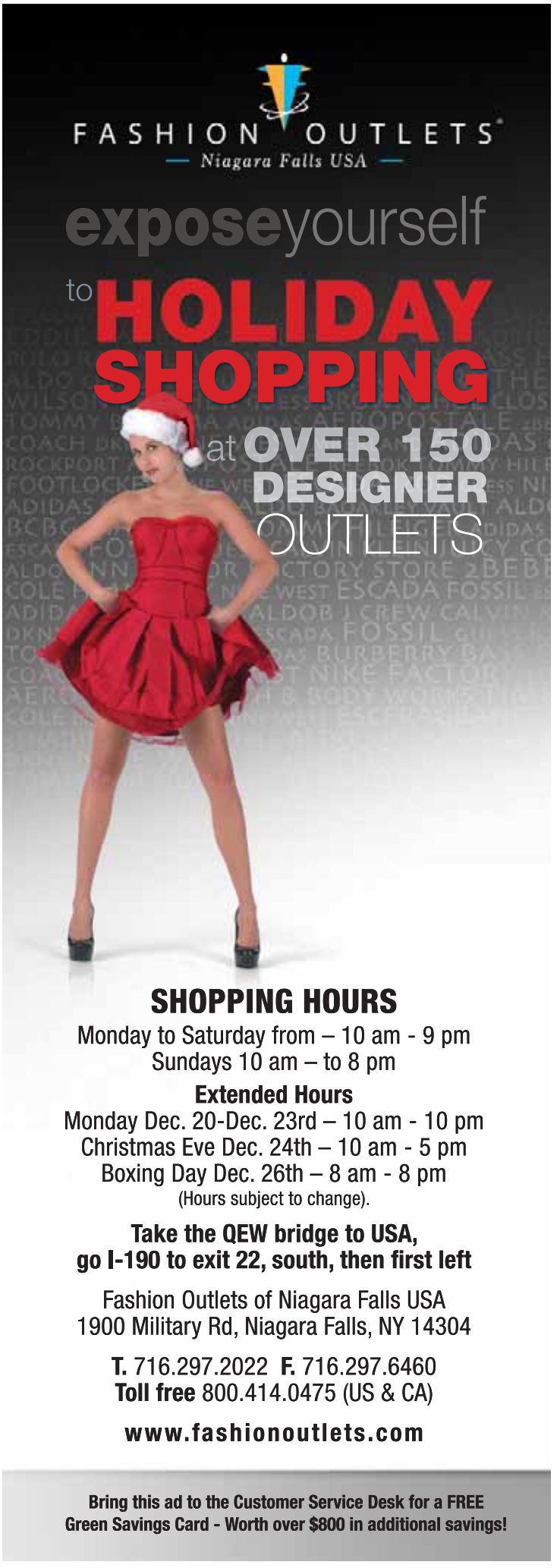
"It was one-on-one," she says of her time in his trailer. "I was in there for a few hours, and that's, like, everyone's ideal lover boy. He's just the whole package." METRO

Celebrity tweets

David Arquette [@david arquette] It is being reported that I'm having a Nervous Breakdown. I assure you am not. This stemmed from a joke I made on The Howard Stern Show and like many things in the Media it was mis-reported and sensationalized.

Pamela Anderson [@PamelaDAnderson] VICTORY! Thanks in large part 2 your efforts, NASA grounds monkey radiation experiments!

Sarah Silverman [@SarahKSilverman] Your desperate & misguided attempt to look younger is the reason your daughter doesn't look up to you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3 life

ISTOCK IMAGES

▶ RSVPs, which were once common, seem to be disregarded more often these days.

Is the tradition to RSVP now passé?

The once common courtesy of replying to an invite is becoming a lamented thing of the past

It's become an acronym for a host's frustration: RSVP — Really, Seriously Very Peeved.

From casual get-togethers to catered affairs, the once-common act of replying to invitations has become an often lost and much lamented cause.

"It frustrates me to no end that people disregard or dismiss RSVPs as optional, especially when I have been nice enough to invite them to a party," says Dawn Pearce, 35, a technical support specialist in Raleigh, N.C. "I get so aggravated I don't know why I even bother with invitations at all."

A social code that has endured for generations, RSVP is short for "repondez s'il vous plait" or, "please reply."

Invitees should answer as soon as possible, according to etiquette expert Lizzie Post, a great-great-granddaughter of gracious-

"It's not like I'm asking you to write a letter ... All you have to do is hit reply."
RICHARD FIORE, A RETIRED MUSIC EXECUTIVE, ON REPLYING TO RSVPS

ness guru Emily Post.

Replies, however, can even be hard to get when the event is for business.

In Phoenix, Kim Horn deals with lacking and late RSVPs for meetings of her professional group, though its members should know better – they're wedding planners.

For those who can't stomach angling for RSVPs, some companies will take on the task for fees that can run into hundreds of dollars.

How did we get to this point of no RSVP return?

Some point to technology as a factor. In an era of constant, instant status updates, one person's RSVP may be another's "C U in 5."

"Technology is changing our culture, the way we communicate ... which than means it changes the way we connect and disconnect," said Gerald Goodman, a psychologist and communication expert, and professor at the University of California, Los Angeles. The fading of RSVP could, he suggests, signify "a new etiquette of freedom."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Family in brief

A survey by the University of Southern California's Annenberg Center for the Digital Future has found that two-thirds of parents say they restrict their kids' access to TV as punishment, a number that has barely budged over the past 10 years.

But the percentage of parents who limit Internet access as a form of punishment has nearly doubled in the last decade.

Among parents surveyed, 57 per cent said they withheld web access to punish their kids, up from 32 per cent in 2000.

Earlier surveys by the centre showed that families are spending less time together, a decline that has coincided with the explosive recent growth of social networks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cash-strapped parents skip stores to swap Barbies and Lego online this Christmas.

The holiday season can cause anxiety in children

Not all children are merry and ho, ho happy for the holidays.

At this time of year, the Kids Help Phone receives more messages and calls than usual from youngsters who have concerns about their family's finances, says a longtime counsellor. There are also worried kids wondering about the effect of mom and dad's recent divorce.

"Being a counsellor to kids is a bit heartbreaking at Christmas because we hear from a lot of unhappy kids," says Louise Longo, who will be starting her 15th year soon as a phone and web counsellor.

"We hear from unhappy kids anyway ... but Christmas just seems to put them over the top in terms of, you know, they're getting pictures and messages about what Christmas should be."

Kids Help Phone is contacted by about 1,000 chil-

ISTOCK IMAGES

▶ Kids Help phone gets more calls at Christmas.

dren from across Canada every day, either via telephone calls or through postings on the organization's website.

Hymie Anisman, who conducts stress research at the Institute of Neurosciences at Carleton University in Ottawa, notes that some kids have neglectful parents.

"Think of these types of things in a context in which everybody else seems to be happy. So Mary and Joey are getting all sorts of presents and here's this neglected kid who's getting far less," he says.

Teachers, doctors and social workers need to keep an eye on these children, especially at this time of year, he advises.

Longo also notes that Christmas can be difficult for youngsters of other religions and cultures who don't celebrate the holiday. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

The NYE baby sitter race is on...

If you are seeking child care for the 2011 countdown, be prepared to pay big because rates can double

HENNY RAY ABRAMS/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE

▶ Experts warn that parents who are looking for New Year's Eve child care should be prepared to pay extra and offer incentives.

Parents, give yourselves the gift of an early resolution: Snag a sitter pronto for New Year's Eve and expect to open wallets wide.

The hunt for child care on the year's most lucrative night began in June for some parents, though the more usual approach is to wait until the last minute, panic and shell out top dollar.

"Most people will book the week before New Year's Eve. We're still a society of procrastinators, for sure," said Melissa Marchwick, a spokeswoman in Chicago for the caregiver match service sittercity.com.

Hourly rates for the big night can more than double, she said. Some sitters are looking for extra incentives like fatter tips, festive food and safe, cost-free passage home amid the craziness.

"The parents who start looking earlier have more of their pick and there's less competition," Marchwick said. "They can get sitters at normal rate."

Marchwick's site, which charges membership fees but offers a free, seven-day trial, has about a million caregivers available nationwide. The site helps parents check references, conduct interviews and use free access to background checks.

The race for New Year's Eve kid care is fierce because many sitters like to celebrate, too. College kids are on break from classes and fewer high schoolers babysit at all, consumed by lives of academics, sports and extracurriculars.

"We're seeing an older sitter," Marchwick said. "The average now is 27 years old, much more experienced."

Want a sitter but can't afford double time? Pay for two or three hours and add a flat $100 to spend the night. If that's too much, share a sitter with friends and try to negotiate, but don't forget the tip.

"I kind of think New Year's is overrated," said Samantha Haviser, a 24-year-old volunteer co-ordinator for a non-profit in Washington, D.C. She plans to babysit.

"I'm getting hassled by friends right now for being lame and not wanting to go out but, hey, I work for a non-profit. I can use the cash," she said.

Haviser is asking for $25 to $30 an hour.

Mom Laura Ceriello, 41, in New York City, said making merry en masse like the Times Square scene means the night belongs mostly to amateurs. She and her husband had two party invitations, one that included kids and one for adults only. They chose to bring their five-year-old daughter along.

"Maybe I'm just too old," she said.

Tracy Ferry in suburban D.C. usually spends $12 to $15 an hour for a sitter.

She and her husband are throwing a party for New Year's Eve and she found care for the children of friends when she booked her own help at an hourly rate of $30.

"I just wanted them to be able to come to the party," Ferry said. "We know how difficult it is to solidify child care on New Year's Eve. It's more expensive than I was anticipating, but it's worth it."

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8 portions
Prep and Cook time: 75 mins

▶ Chocolate Peppermint Snowflake Tart

The Chocolate Peppermint Snowflake Tart is easy to make and great to bring to parties Be creative and change up the flavours or cookie shapes

Ganache tarts are elegant, decadent and the epitome of chocolate love.

Best yet, they are easy to make, can be prepared ahead of time and transport well. In other words, they are perfect for the holidays.

This dressed-up version is flavoured with peppermint extract and topped with festive snowflake cookies, but you could just as easily flavour it with orange, almond or vanilla extracts and top it with whatever cookie shapes inspire you. Holly leaves would be pretty and elegant, and snowmen would be fun.

Ingredients :

Crust:
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) all-purpose flour
- Pinch salt
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) cocoa powder
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) sugar
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) unsalted butter (1 1/2 sticks), cut into chunks

Ganache:
- 300 ml (1 1/4 cups) heavy cream
- 250 g (8 oz) semisweet chocolate
- 7 ml (1 1/2 tsp) peppermint extract
- Powdered sugar, for dusting

Preparation:

1. Heat oven to 190 C (375 F).
2. In a food processor, combine flour, salt, cocoa powder and sugar. Pulse to combine. Add butter and process until mixture forms a dough, about 30 seconds.
3. Remove dough from processor and break off about a third of it. Set this aside.
4. Press remaining dough into bottom and up sides of a 23-cm (9-inch) tart pan with removable bottom. Use a fork to prick bottom of crust all over. Freeze for 15 minutes, then bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until centre of bottom feels firm.
5. Meanwhile, make snowflake cookies. Roll out reserved dough between 2 sheets of parchment paper to 3 mm (1/8 inch) thick. Move dough to a baking sheet, including parchment paper, then refrigerate until firm, about 15 minutes.
6. Use 2.5- to 5-cm (1- to 2-inch) cookie cutters to cut out 8 to 10 snowflakes (of multiple sizes, if desired). If dough becomes too soft, you may need to chill it in the refrigerator as you work. Once all of the cookies are cut, transfer them to a parchment paper-lined baking sheet and refrigerate for 10 minutes.
7. Bake snowflakes for 10 to 15 minutes (depending on size of the cookies) or until firm. Let cookies cool on baking sheet.
8. Ganache Filling: In a small saucepan over medium, heat cream until simmering. Add chocolate and let sit off heat for 2 minutes. Stir until smooth. Stir in peppermint extract, then pour into baked tart shell. Refrigerate until firm, about 2 hours.
9. When ready to serve, dust snowflake cookies with powdered sugar, then arrange them on the top of the tart.

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Eco-gifting

Reduce, reuse and recycle children's artwork into collages, notecards or other holiday gifts this season

Turning children's artwork into Christmas gifts can be a creative way to clear clutter. So take those drawings and paintings off the fridge and tuck them under the tree.

MAGNETS

Use photo editing software to crop the scanned image or photo into a square or rectangle, and reduce the size to a few centimetres across. Print the image on photo paper or card stock, cut it out and then cut a piece of foam core board the same size.

HOLLY RAMER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Even simple line drawings can be turned into bold, colourful gifts by pairing them with bright backgrounds.

FRAMED COLLAGE

The same technique used for the magnets can be repeated to create a striking framed display of dozens of drawings and paintings — a miniature retrospective of sorts. Back each cutout image with foam core, and glue them to a large piece of white poster board cut to fit your frame.

NOTECARDS

Have a toddler who's still in a "modern art" phase? Abstract finger paintings can be turned into notecards suitable for anyone who appreciates bold colour. Isolate interesting sections of a larger painting, crop to 14-by-11 centimetres and glue to the front of a card made out of a standard 21-by-28-centimetre piece of card stock cut in half, or print the image directly on the card stock. This idea also works well if you have a large detailed picture coloured by an older child that can be broken up into interesting sections.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Queen of Green

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EASY COMPOSTING

I would love to compost, but I am not sure how to manage it in an apartment. What are the options? It seems that the city of Montreal is not really as compost-friendly as other Canadian cities. *Erika of Montreal*

I have one word for you: worms. Just because you don't have yard space doesn't mean you can't join the growing number of Canadians who are composting. Statistics Canada's research from 2006, albeit dated, showed 27 per cent of households nationwide composted. And, Quebec households have steadily been increasing their rates of composting, too.

You need to try vermicomposting! It's ideal for small spaces and can be done indoors, which makes it perfect for apartment dwellers. It means you discard organic matter generated in your kitchen — like banana peels — by feeding it to worms. But not just any worms; you're going to need some red wrigglers.

The result is a very fertile mixture of decomposed food scraps and worm poop.

Vermiculture is a great way to reduce the organic matter otherwise destined for the landfill. The process takes three to six months and depending on how much you feed your worms, you'll need to harvest the vermicompost two to four times a year. It's excellent fertilizer for gardens, laws, or potted plants on balconies and even indoor plants.

Fans of worm farms claim they're much easier to care for than a dog or a cat and they don't smell. There are many great online resources to help you source and set up your very own worm bin.

Check out City Farmer's resources listed by province, or Worm Girl Montreal, who sells worm bins and worms at wormgirlmontreal.wordpress.com.

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MIRACLE ON YONGE STREET

"I was so scared when we arrived in Canada that I told my husband we needed to go back to India."

▶ Thanks to the Yonge Street Mission in Toronto, Hyma and her family will be able to celebrate Christmas in Canada this year.

Two years later life is a lot better for Hyma and her young family thanks to the caring people at Yonge Street Mission in Toronto.

They arrived in Canada with the promise of a job in the computer industry for her husband and that's all. It was a lonely and frustrating time for Hyma.

Her daughter cried all day long missing her grandparents, aunts and cousins. With no money to afford day care, Hyma couldn't work. She pushed her stroller through the streets of the city with her distraught daughter unsure of where to turn for help.

Then one day she walked into the Yonge Street Mission and her life made a turn for the better.

She signed up for a computer class and reluctantly left her daughter at the Mission daycare. As Hyma learned about emails, word documents and PowerPoint presentations her daughter started to play with the other children. She began to smile, sing and dance. "I'm OK, I'm a big girl now!" she proudly told her Mom one day after class.

Although her husband is working, money is tight. By choice, they live frugally and send every extra cent to their family-run orphanage in India that looks after children with AIDS.

They have never celebrated Christmas in Canada.

"Last year we were going to go to a restaurant but we sent money to India instead and fed one hundred people at the orphanage."

Not too long ago the children in the orphanage sent a message to their generous "angels" in Canada.

They told Hyma and her husband that they were praying for them. And those prayers have been answered.

The people at the Yonge Street Mission are looking after Hyma and her family with computer classes, support services and friendship.

She recently went to the Yonge Street Mission's Christmas Market that distributes donated gifts to families in need. Now for the first time since they arrived in Canada Hyma's daughter will finally know the joy so many children experience Christmas morning: a brand new toy to unwrap and love.

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ISTOCK IMAGES

▶ Stressing about a possible switch? Don't pull your hair out. Experts emphasize that questioning academic choices is a natural reaction for anyone attending university.

Think you may have made a major mistake?

Academic advisers can help struggling students to make the best of an experience they may be unsure of

Exactly a year ago Ramin Asgari was struggling.

A heavy course load, looming exams and a tough transition from high school were overwhelming the civil engineering student as he approached the end of his first semester at the University of British Columbia.

Unable to see himself passing, he considered giving up — until a peer academic support group turned things around.

"They helped a lot," says the 19-year-old. "They assured me that 'Yeah, first year is like that, but it gets a lot better,' and it really does – I've gotten way better grades this year than last year."

The group review sessions Asgari attended also helped dispel the isolation that had fed his academic despair.

"I'm not feeling like I'm the only person on campus," says Asgari, who still goes to tutorials and peer review sessions in his second year.

"I'd say it was more emotional help than actual study help."

The free drop-in sessions are similar to others run at universities across the country.

The peer-run programs in particular provide a starting point for students struggling with the academic demands of university.

Vladimir Nikitin says students often come just to connect with someone else who understands.

"They find out there's a lot of them who have the same problems," says the political science student who runs a peer study session twice a week at Carleton University in Ottawa.

"It's a safe environment where everyone can share and discuss issues that are not necessarily course-related."

The informal nature of the sessions and the fact that they are run by another student also help defuse any intimidation felt by someone who may have never reached out for help before, says Nikitin.

"I can relate to those issues," says the 23-year-old who questioned his degree choice at one point as well. "It's pretty common to not know what you want to do in life when you're 18 or 19."

Building confidence, learning better time management and picking up tips on how to study better are all part of the peer sessions typically held for courses with a large number of Ds and Fs.

But while Nikitin advises most students to stick with their courses at least until after their first exams, not all problems can be solved by peers like himself. In some cases, professional counsellors are better to talk to.

Shari Woods-Baum is one of them. The counsellor at Ryerson University in Toronto says students can feel overwhelmed by university for a number of reasons, making it important to pinpoint what irks them the most.

"It's really a holistic process," says Woods-Baum of the evaluation students need to go through when examining their decision to change majors or leave university.

"We definitely want to look at the entire breadth of their life."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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BOOK REVIEW

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If you are anything like me, the thought of working a nine-to-five job would be about as thrilling as staring at drywall.

Being an entrepreneur at heart is more than just an aspiration, it's a serious commitment to a very different lifestyle.

According to author and columnist Scott Gerber, there are plenty of reasons why you should burn your resume and start up your own business.

Gerber, who has been described as the Simon Cowell of young entrepreneurship, paints a pretty graphic portrait of the real life start up in his book Never Get a Real Job, and be forewarned, it may have you rethinking your "being your own boss" fantasy.

In the first part of Gerber's book the chapters take the tough-love approach

We "were so busy riding the 'everyone-is-a-winner' bandwagon that you failed to realize you were being rewarded for mediocrity," says Gerber.

This book is written for Generation Y, and the reality is, many new grads, university- and college-educated to boot, aren't finding work.

There just aren't any jobs to be had, and since the economy went to the toilet, entire layers of companies have been wiped out.

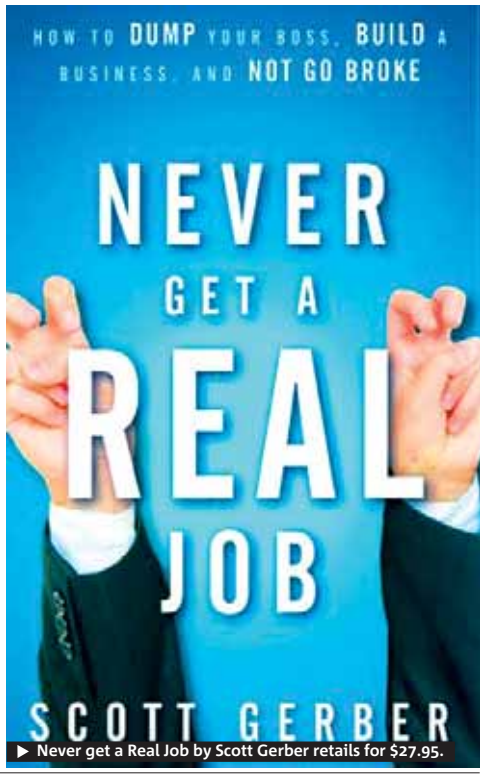
"According to a 2009 National Association of Colleges and Employers study, 80 per cent of college graduates looking for jobs couldn't find one," Gerber writes. The bad news is, the class of 2010 is facing the worst job market in a generation.

Sadly, most of these grads retreated back to the school that newly minted them. The only ones smiling, of course, were the academic institutions cross-selling 'cures' for the malaise of unemployment.

I am certainly biased towards Gerber's opinion — fire your boss and take charge of your own fate and income, or if you're just graduating, rather than go back to school start a business. As he highlights in his book, it is far easier to start a business when you are younger, and have less to lose.

It's 12 days to the new year. If your New Year's resolutions include creating a start-up, start with Gerber's tome of no nonsense advice, not a spoonful of sugar.

CRAIG LUND IS THE PRESIDENT ELECT OF THE AMERICAN MARKETING ASSOCIATIONS TORONTO CHAPTER AND CAN BE REACHED AT HELLO@CRAIGLUND.CA



▶ Never get a Real Job by Scott Gerber retails for $27.95.

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- Esthetics/New Technologies
- Esthetics/Electrolysis
- Personal Support Worker
- Pharmacy Assistant
- Legal Administrative Assistant
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CONTRIBUTED/EVERGREEN BRICK WORKS

▶ Grab your skates and get outdoors with the kids at the new Brick Works skating trail.

Brick Works makes winter fun

Free skating park and exciting kid's workshops a great family option

RAF BRUSILOW
TORONTO@METRONEWS.CA

With free skating, winter markets and plenty of kids' workshops, the Evergreen Brick Works makes it easy to shake off the winter blahs.

The former Don Valley Brick Works building near Bayview Ave. and the DVP is the site of family-friendly learning and fun put on by national charity Evergreen.

Free skating at the site's large Skating Trail is a top draw for families — just remember to bring your own skates. The site also hosts a year-round farmer's market every Saturday, perfect for stocking up on fresh food and ingredients directly from local farmers.

The Holiday Market offers a chance to pick up some last-minute artisanal gifts all week long starting Monday, Dec. 20 to Thursday, Dec. 23 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and kids can enjoy a wealth of exciting baking and craft workshops for cost by donation only.

Evergreen spokesperson Anthony Westenberg says one of Evergreen's goals at the Brick Works is to promote healthy, active lifestyles.

"Being active and living an active lifestyle is a big part of our Canadian culture and it is important, especially in the winter, so promoting it is something we're big on," Westenberg said.

The Brick Works is also doing a skate drive this year so visitors are being encouraged to donate their old skates as they lace up their new ones to hit the ice. The skates will go to Evergreen's school education program for underserviced communities.

What's on

The Evergreen Brick Works is located at 550 Bayview Ave.

- **Free skating:** Dec. 19 – 23 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Dec. 27 – Jan 2 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- **Kids baking workshops:** Dec. 20 – 23 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.; cost by donation
- **Holiday crafts for kids** Dec. 20 – 23 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.; cost by donation
- **Holiday market:** Dec. 20 – 23 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- **Farmer's Market:** Saturdays, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

'Tis the season

RAF BRUSILOW
TORONTO@METRONEWS.CA

'Tis the season not only of good cheer but gorgeous light displays across the city. Here are some of the best places to enjoy eyeball-dazzling visuals.

Distillery District

Festooned with Christmas lights and an enormous main Christmas tree, the Distillery District doesn't disappoint for night-time light-gazing during the season.

University Avenue

The city's widest street serves as a perfect focal point for festive lighting with the many character-filled buildings like the courthouse and American Embassy serving as a great backdrop.

Nathan Phillips Square

Last month's Cavalcade of Lights helped unveil the 30-foot tall fully decorated tree that has become a lasting Christmas tradition in Toronto.

Decorated with more than 10,000 red and white lights the tree is an impressive sight at night and the south side of the square also features more than a dozen other, smaller trees decorated in festive lights as well.

Yonge-Dundas Square

The iconic downtown square features lightbulb critters and its own tree lit up with blue and white lights, all set against the backdrop of the city's most bustling intersection.

Yorkville and Bay-Bloor area

Toronto's posh walkway does not disappoint with a hearty display of lights and decorations, both on the street and in storefronts.

Harbourfront Centre

The waterfront comes alive with a tall ship covered in lights, a skating rink surrounded by lit trees and lit up with coloured spotlights as you skate.

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4 sports

Champs too deep for hurting Raps

Lakers' bigs, bench step up with Bryant nursing injured pinky finger

120	110
LAKERS	RAPTORS

Kobe Bryant led the Los Angeles Lakers with 20 points but it was the work of subs Andrew Bynum, Shannon Brown and Matt Barnes that made the difference in a 120-110 victory over the shorthanded Toronto Raptors yesterday.

Bynum had 16, Brown 14 and Barnes 12 while Pau Gasol added 19 points and eight rebounds for the defending NBA champions, who overcame a sluggish start, took the lead for good midway through the second quarter and didn't let up in winning their fifth straight to finish a seven-game road trip at 6-1.

The Raptors (10-18), playing without leading scorer Andrea Bargnani (sore right ankle) and guard Sonny Weems (back spasms), received strong efforts from Linas Kleiza, who matched a season high with 26 points, and DeMar DeRozan, who scored 23, but just didn't have the depth to keep pace with Los Angeles (21-7).

They struggled all afternoon to find an inside presence to match up against Gasol and Bynum, especially once Amir Johnson, who scored 14, began fighting a bout of lower back tightness.

Jose Calderon added 20 points and 12 assists while Leandro Barbosa chipped in 11 points for the Raptors.

Toronto never got closer than six in the fourth quarter and trailed by as many as 13 in the final frame, even though starters Bryant, Gasol and Lamar Odom only played the final 4½ minutes. The Lakers bench outscored Toronto's 57-27.

A wild third quarter ended with the Lakers up 86-79 after Barbosa intercepted an inbounds pass with two seconds left and drained a prayer from half-court.

DeRozan led the way with 19 third-quarter points on 6-of-7 shooting for the Raptors.

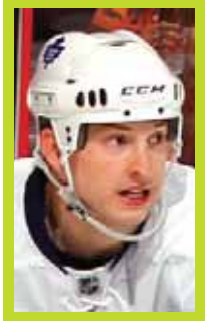
The Lakers took a 57-49 lead into the third quarter, undoing all of the Raptors' strong start during a dominant second quarter in which they outscored them 29-15. More impressive is they did it without a single point from Bryant — the L.A. bench erased an eight-point deficit and handed over a 42-40 lead to the starters with six minutes left in the quarter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Kobe Bryant cuts through the Raptor defence at the Air Canada Centre yesterday.

Quoted



"We know we have to contribute. It can't be the same guys every night, which it has been. You've got to get that secondary scoring and spread it through our lineup. Especially with our team; it's tough times right now."

LEAFS' FORWARD COLBY ARMSTRONG AS THE LEAFS PREPARE TO HOST ATLANTA TONIGHT

"They're off to a great start. I don't know if it's because they've got some new guys in there, changed the coaching staff up or whatever they did there."

LEAFS' FORWARD CLARKE MACARTHUR, WHO FINISHED LAST SEASON WITH ATLANTA

Scan code for more sports

Brewers 'are for real' after Greinke pickup

The Milwaukee Brewers are going all in for 2011, acquiring former Cy Young winner Zack Greinke in a trade with Kansas City.

The Royals announced yesterday that they acquired shortstop Alcides Escobar, outfielder Lorenzo Cain and right-handed pitching prospects Jake Odorizzi and Jeremy Jeffress from the Brewers in exchange for Greinke, shortstop Yuniesky Betancourt and cash considerations.

3.82
Zack Greinke is 60-67 with a 3.82 ERA in six-plus seasons with the Royals.

"Zack Greinke is one of the top young pitchers in the game today," Brewers general manager Doug Melvin said in a statement. "We are very excited to add him to our new rotation."

Milwaukee outfielder Corey Hart said the move, along with a previous trade for starter Shaun Marcum, makes the Brewers a solid contender.

"We were getting better with Marcum, now Greinke," Hart said in a text message to The Associated Press. "Brewers are for real!" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

Juniors give Ellis the 'C'

TEAM CANADA. Ryan Ellis has been named captain of Canada's junior hockey team for the world championships.

The Windsor Spitfires defenceman will make his third world junior appearance, helping Canada capture gold in 2009 and silver in 2010.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Panther fined for sideline hit

NFL. For the second time in a week, a fine has been levied for sideline contact during a punt return. Carolina defensive end Tyler Brayton was fined $15,000 US by the NFL for hitting Atlanta's Chris Owens out of bounds in last week's game.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bills. Road win

▶ Miami's Vonte Davis breaks up a catch against Bills receiver Steve Johnson.

MARC SEROTA/GETTY IMAGES

Bills sink Dolphins' playoff hopes

The Buffalo Bills showed just how much they've improved since the start of the season, and the Miami Dolphins again looked lousy at home. Ryan Fitzpatrick threw two TD passes and the resurgent Bills made themselves at home in Miami, winning 17-14 yesterday to eliminate the Dolphins from the AFC playoff race.

The trades

Some big-name NBA players were dealt this weekend. Here's a quick look at what their new teams will be looking for.

Hedo Turkoglu to the Magic

All they can hope is that he has a similar impact to 2008-09, when he was an integral part of an Orlando team that advanced to the NBA final.

Vince Carter to the Suns

Perhaps a pairing with Steve Nash, who simply has a knack for making those around him better, will revitalize Carter.

Gilbert Arenas to the Magic

Arenas has showed signs this season that he can be close to what he once was when healthy, averaging 17.3 points and 5.6 assists.

Rashard Lewis to the Wizards

Washington can now officially, finally, turn the team over to rookie guard John Wall. The Wizards will also save about $17 million in the deal.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

NFL's playoff picture still far from settled

Game results

Peyton Manning threw two touchdown passes and Donald Brown ran for another score yesterday as the Indianapolis Colts stayed in the playoff hunt with a 34-24 victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Impact on the standings

The Colts (8-6) share the AFC South lead with Jacksonville (8-6) and can clinch a seventh division title in eight years by winning their last two games.

Mark Sanchez stood up to the pressure created by the Steelers' defence and the Jets' two-game losing streak, leading a decisive field goal drive as New York beat Pittsburgh 22-17.

The Steelers (10-4) were told by the NFL nearly an hour after the game ended that they secured a playoff spot via a series of complicated strength-of-schedule tiebreakers. By improving to 10-4, the Jets strengthened their grasp on a wild-card spot.

DeSean Jackson scored on a 65-yard punt return on the final play of the game and the Philadelphia Eagles scored 28 points in the final 7:28 to stun the New York Giants 38-31 and take over first place in the NFC East.

Philadelphia needs to either win one of its final two home games (Minnesota or Dallas) or have New York lose one of its two road games (Green Bay or Washington) to capture the division. The Eagles' win clinched a playoff spot for the Atlanta Falcons.

Ray Rice ran for 153 yards and scored two touchdowns, and the Baltimore Ravens beat New Orleans 30-24 to end the Saints' six-game winning streak. The Ravens (10-4) won by reviving their lagging running game and managing to hold onto a fourth-quarter lead.

A New Orleans loss next week on the road against Atlanta will give the Falcons the NFC South division title. Baltimore is in position to be at least a wild-card team, but would need the Steelers to lose one of their remaining games to take the AFC North crown.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Philadelphia	34	22	7	2	3	117	82	49	12-5-0-2	10-2-2-1	7-1-0-2	W5
d-Washington	35	19	12	2	2	104	99	42	12-4-1-2	7-8-1-0	2-6-1-1	W1
d-Montreal	33	19	12	2	0	87	72	40	12-5-2-0	7-7-0-0	5-4-1-0	L1
Pittsburgh	33	21	10	2	0	104	78	44	10-6-1-0	11-4-1-0	8-2-0-0	L2
Atlanta	34	18	11	1	4	109	97	41	10-6-0-2	8-5-1-2	6-2-0-2	W1
NY Rangers	35	20	14	1	0	105	91	41	8-8-1-0	12-6-0-0	6-4-0-0	L1
Tampa Bay	32	18	10	2	2	99	108	40	9-2-1-1	9-8-1-1	6-2-0-2	W3
Boston	31	17	10	1	3	89	65	38	8-5-1-2	9-5-0-1	5-3-1-1	W1
Carolina	31	15	12	0	4	89	94	34	7-5-0-1	8-7-0-3	5-2-0-3	W4
Ottawa	35	14	17	3	1	81	106	32	8-9-1-1	5-8-2-0	3-4-2-1	L2
Buffalo	34	13	17	4	0	84	95	30	7-9-1-0	6-8-3-0	5-4-1-0	L2
Florida	30	14	16	0	0	80	78	28	7-6-0-0	7-10-0-0	4-6-0-0	W1
Toronto	32	12	16	2	2	72	96	28	8-6-2-1	4-10-0-1	4-5-1-0	L2
New Jersey	32	9	21	1	1	58	98	20	5-8-1-1	4-13-0-0	2-8-0-0	L2
NY Islanders	30	6	18	3	3	65	104	18	4-7-1-2	2-11-2-1	2-6-1-1	L1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Detroit	32	20	8	3	1	105	88	44	12-4-2-1	8-4-1-0	4-4-2-0	L2
d-Dallas	33	20	10	1	2	95	90	43	11-3-1-1	9-7-0-1	6-2-1-1	W2
d-Colorado	33	19	10	4	0	121	105	42	10-4-1-0	9-6-3-0	6-1-3-0	W6
Vancouver	30	18	8	2	2	98	77	40	11-3-1-1	7-5-1-1	7-2-1-0	W3
Nashville	32	17	9	4	2	83	79	40	8-2-3-2	9-7-1-0	8-1-1-0	L1
San Jose	33	17	11	4	1	100	94	39	8-4-2-1	9-7-2-0	6-3-0-1	W2
Chicago	35	18	14	2	1	111	103	39	10-9-0-0	8-5-2-1	6-3-1-0	W2
Anaheim	36	17	15	2	2	93	106	38	11-6-0-1	6-9-2-1	5-4-0-1	L2
Los Angeles	31	18	12	1	0	90	75	37	11-2-1-0	7-10-0-0	5-4-1-0	L1
Phoenix	31	15	9	4	3	88	87	37	6-4-2-2	9-5-2-1	4-4-0-2	W1
St. Louis	31	15	11	2	3	81	88	35	10-3-0-2	5-8-2-1	3-5-1-1	L1
Columbus	32	16	13	2	1	82	90	35	8-8-0-1	8-5-2-0	3-5-1-1	L4
Minnesota	31	14	13	1	3	75	90	32	7-7-0-2	7-6-1-1	4-4-1-1	W1
Calgary	33	14	16	1	2	90	96	31	9-7-0-0	5-9-1-2	5-4-0-1	L1
Edmonton	31	12	14	1	4	84	108	29	6-8-1-1	6-6-1-2	6-3-0-1	W1

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Yesterday's results
Dallas 4 Detroit 3 (OT)
Chicago 3 Los Angeles 2
Washington 3 Ottawa 2
Colorado 3 Montreal 2
Saturday's results
Vancouver 4 Toronto 1
Minnesota 3 Calgary 1
Atlanta 7 New Jersey 1
Boston 3 Washington 2
Carolina 4 Anaheim 2
Dallas 2 Columbus 1
Los Angeles 6 Nashville 1
Philadelphia 4 N.Y. Rangers 1
Phoenix 4 N.Y. Islanders 3 (SO)
San Jose 4 St. Louis 1
Tampa Bay 3 Buffalo 1
Tonight's games
(All times Eastern)
Anaheim at Boston, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Florida at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Calgary at Minnesota, 8 p.m.

CAPITALS 3, SENATORS 2

First Period
1. Ottawa, Shannon 4 (Winchester) 7:11
2. Ottawa, Kelly 8 (Neil) 13:55
Penalties — Steckel Wash (interference) 3:19, Michalek Ott (slashing) 16:00.
Second Period
3. Washington, Perreault 3 (Laich, Knuble) 0:34
4. Washington, Fehr 5 (Ovechkin) 1:20
5. Washington, Perreault 4 (Fehr, Poti) 6:55 (pp)
Penalties — Regin Ott (slashing) 3:15, Michalek Ott (high-sticking) 5:33, Green Wash (hooking) 10:47, Erskine Wash, Michalek Ott (roughing) 12:48.
Third Period
No Scoring.
Penalties — Karlsson Ott (tripping) 1:45, Perreault Wash (hooking) 7:08, Ruutu Ott (hooking) 9:52, Carlson Wash (high-sticking) 12:35, Chimera Wash (holding) 17:15, Foligno Ott (holding) 19:43.
Shots

Washington	8	15	11	34
Ottawa	9	11	6	26

Goal — Washington: Neuvirth (W,13-6-2); Ottawa: Elliott (L,10-10-3). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Washington: 1-6; Ottawa: 0-5.
Att. — 16,471 (19,153) at Ottawa.

AVALANCHE 3, CANADIENS 2

First Period
1. Montreal, Cammalleri 12 (Plekanec, Kostitsyn) 10:50 (pp)
2. Colorado, Wilson 2 (O'Reilly, Anderson) 19:54 (pp)
Penalties — Dupuis Col (high-sticking) 10:40, Spacek Mtl (hooking) 18:03.
Second Period
3. Montreal, Picard 2 (Pacioretty, Gomez) 2:58 (pp)
4. Colorado, Porter 7 (Dupuis) 4:01
5. Colorado, Galiardi 5 (O'Reilly, Holos) 16:12
Penalties — Yip Col (interference) 1:28, Lapierre Mtl (interference) 13:03, Eller Mtl (high-sticking) 17:12.
Third Period
No Scoring.
Penalties — Hunwick Col (tripping) 5:00, Shattenkirk Col (delay of game) 15:28, Anderson Col (slashing) 20:00.
Shots

Montreal	7	8	14	29
Colorado	8	15	5	28

Goal — Montreal: Price (L,18-10-2); Colorado: Anderson (W,10-4-2). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Montreal: 2-4; Colorado: 1-3.
Att. — 18,007 (18,007) at Denver.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Crosby, Pgh	26	28	54
Stamkos, TB	25	21	46
St. Louis, TB	12	28	40
Datsyuk, Det	12	27	39
Perry, Ana	16	22	38
D.Sedin, Vcr	16	22	38
B.Richards, Dal	15	23	38
Ovechkin, Wash	12	26	38
H.Sedin, Vcr	6	31	37
Getzlaf, Ana	13	22	35
Sharp, Chi	18	16	34
Duchene, Col	13	21	34
Backstrom, Wash	11	23	34
Semin, Wash	18	15	33
Eriksson, Dal	14	19	33

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Boston	22	4	.846	—
d-Miami	21	8	.724	2½
d-Chicago	16	9	.640	5½
Orlando	16	10	.615	6
Atlanta	17	12	.586	6½
New York	16	12	.571	7
Indiana	12	14	.462	10
Philadelphia	11	16	.407	11½
Milwaukee	10	15	.400	11½
Toronto	10	18	.357	13
Charlotte	9	17	.346	13
Detroit	9	19	.321	14
Cleveland	8	19	.296	14½
New Jersey	8	20	.286	15
Washington	6	19	.240	15½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-San Antonio	23	3	.885	—
Dallas	21	5	.808	2
d-L.A. Lakers	21	7	.750	3
d-Oklahoma City	19	9	.679	5
d-Utah	19	9	.679	5
Denver	16	10	.615	7
New Orleans	16	11	.593	7½
Portland	14	14	.500	10
Phoenix	13	13	.500	10
Houston	12	15	.444	11½
Memphis	12	16	.429	12
Golden State	9	17	.346	14
L.A. Clippers	7	21	.250	17
Minnesota	6	22	.214	18
Sacramento	5	20	.200	17½

d-division leader
Yesterday's results
Boston 99 Indiana 88
New Jersey 89 Atlanta 82
L.A. Lakers 120 Toronto 110
Houston 102 Sacramento 93
Detroit 111 New Orleans 108 (OT)
Phoenix 113 Oklahoma City 110
Saturday's results
Philadelphia 97 Orlando 89
Miami 95 Washington 94
Cleveland 109 New York 102 (OT)
L.A. Clippers 100 Chicago 99
Utah 95 Milwaukee 86
San Antonio 112 Memphis 106 (OT)
Denver 115 Minnesota 113
Portland 96 Golden State 95
Tonight's games
(All times Eastern)
Orlando at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Utah at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
New Orleans at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Charlotte at Washington, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Portland, 10 p.m.
Houston at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Minnesota at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Oklahoma City at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Chicago, 8 p.m.
New Jersey at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Milwaukee at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

LAKERS 120, RAPTORS 110

L.A. LAKERS (120)
Artest 2-3 2-2 6, Odom 5-9 1-2 11, Gasol 9-15 1-2 19, Fisher 2-8 2-4 7, Bryant 6-12 8-9 20, Bynum 4-6 8-10 16, Blake 2-5 0-0 6, Barnes 4-10 2-2 12, Brown 5-7 2-2 14, Walton 2-4 5-6 9. Totals 41-79 31-39 120.
TORONTO (110)
Kleiza 11-21 0-0 26, Johnson 7-12 0-0 14, Davis 0-3 0-0 0, Calderon 8-14 2-2 20, DeRozan 6-12 11-11 23, Dorsey 2-3 2-5 6, Wright 3-3 0-0 6, Bayless 1-7 2-2 4, Barbosa 3-12 4-5 11, Alabi 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 41-87 21-25 110.

L.A. Lakers	28	29	29	34	120
Toronto	34	15	30	31	110

3-Point Goals—L.A. Lakers 7-19 (Brown 2-3, Barnes 2-4, Blake 2-5, Fisher 1-4, Odom 0-1, Bryant 0-2), Toronto 7-22 (Kleiza 4-10, Calderon 2-5, Barbosa 1-5, Bayless 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—L.A. Lakers 57 (Barnes 9), Toronto 39 (Kleiza 10). Assists—L.A. Lakers 20 (Bryant, Gasol 4), Toronto 27 (Calderon 12). Total Fouls—L.A. Lakers 21, Toronto 28. Technicals—L.A. Lakers defensive three second. A—19,935 (19,800).

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE
CLEVELAND INDIANS — Agreed to terms with RHP Toru Murata on a minor league contract.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Traded RHP Zack Greinke, SS Yuniesky Betancourt and cash considerations to Milwaukee for SS Alcides Escobar, OF Lorenzo Cain, RHP Jake Odorizzi and RHP Jeremy Jeffress.

FRONTIER LEAGUE

OAKLAND COUNTY CRUISERS — Signed 1B Joash Brodin and RHP Tom Moran to contract extensions.
RIVER CITY RASCALS — Signed RHP Derrick Miramontes, catcher Cooper Stewart, and RHP Ryan Zink to contract extensions.
WINDY CITY THUNDERBOLTS — Traded LHP Jared Locke to New Jersey (Can-Am) for OF Jeff Grose.

HOCKEY

NHL

CAROLINA HURRICANES — Reassigned D Bryan Rodney to Charlotte (AHL).
OTTAWA SENATORS — Recalled G Mike Brodeur from Binghamton (AHL) on an emergency basis.

SKIING

CROSS COUNTRY

At La Clusaz, France
Men
Four x 10-kilometre Classic/Freestyle Relay
1. Switzerland (Toni Livers, Dario Cologna, Remo Fischer, Curdin Perl), one hour 42 minutes 14.6 seconds; 2. Russia I (Evgeniy Belov, Alexander Legkov, Petr Sedov, Maxim Vylegzhanin), 1:42.45.4; 3. Norway I (Eldar Roenning, Martin Johnsrud Sundby, Tord Asle Gjerdalen, Petter Northug), 1;42.48.4; **Also: 9. Canada (Devon Kershaw, Sudbury, Ont.; Ivan Babikov, Canmore, Alta.; Alex Harvey, St-Ferreol-les-Neiges, Que.; and Len Valjas, Toronto), 1:45.14.2**
Women
Four x Five-kilometre Classic/Freestyle Relay
1. Norway I (Vibeke W. Skofterud, Therese Johaug, Kristin Stoermer Steira, Marit Bjoergen), 58:38.7; 2. Italy (Virginia De Martin Topranin, Marianna Longa, Silvia Rupil, Arianna Follis), 59:35.3; 3. Sweden (Sara Lindborg, Anna Haag, Maria Rydqvist, Charlotte Kalla), 1:00:02.8

FREESTYLE

At San Candido, Italy
Ski Cross
Women
Final
1. Fanny Smith, Switzerland; 2. Ashleigh McIvor, Vancouver; 3. Heidi Zacher, Germany; 4. Anna Holmlund, Sweden. **Also: Marielle Thompson, Whistler, B.C.; 11. Kelsey Serwa, Kelowna, B.C.; 12. Danielle Poleschuk, Calgary; 14. Julia Murray, Whister, B.C.**
World Cup Ski Cross Standings
(after second of 11 events)
1. Anna Holmlund, Sweden, 150 points; 2. Fanny Smith, Switzerland, 145; 3. Ashleigh McIvor, Vancouver, 116; 4. Heidi Zacher, Germany, 110; **5. Kelsey Serwa, Kelowna, B.C., 104.**
Men
Final
1. Scott Kneller, Australia; 2. Alex Fiva, Switzerland; 3. John Teller, U.S.; 4. Tomas Kraus, Czech Republic.
Also: 5. Chris Del Bosco, Sudbury, Ont.; 7. Nick Zoricic, Toronto; 12. Dave Duncan, Golden, B.C.; 19. Davey Barr, Whistler, B.C.; 27. Stanislas Rey, Whistler, B.C..
World Cup Ski Cross Standings
(after second of 11 events)
1. Patrick Gasser, Switzerland, 120 points; 2. Scott Kneller, Australia, 112; 3. Andreas Matt, Austria, 109; 4. Jouni Pellinen, Finland, 85; **5. Nick Zoricic, Toronto, 82.**

SOCCER

ENGLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Man United	16	9	7	0	36	16	34
Arsenal	17	10	2	5	34	19	32
Man City	17	9	5	3	24	13	32
Chelsea	17	9	4	4	31	12	31
Tottenham	17	7	6	4	25	22	27
Sunderland	18	6	9	3	21	18	27
Bolton	18	6	8	4	30	25	26
Newcastle	17	6	4	7	27	26	22
Liverpool	17	6	4	7	21	22	22
Blackpool	16	6	4	6	24	29	22
West Brom	17	6	4	7	24	29	22
Blackburn	18	6	4	8	23	28	22
Stoke	17	6	3	8	21	22	21
Aston Villa	17	5	5	7	19	28	20
Everton	17	3	9	5	18	20	18
Birmingham	17	3	9	5	17	20	18
Fulham	17	2	10	5	16	20	16
Wigan	17	3	7	7	13	28	16
Wolverhampton	17	4	3	10	18	30	15
West Ham	18	2	7	9	16	31	13

Yesterday's results
Blackpool vs. Tottenham (ppd., snow)
Chelsea vs. Manchester United (ppd., snow)
West Bromwich Albion vs. Wolverhampton (ppd., snow)

FRANCE

LIGUE 1

Yesterday's results
Marseille 1 Lyon 1
Sochaux 1 Bordeaux 1
Lens vs. Caen (ppd., snow)
Lille vs. Nancy (ppd., snow)

GERMANY

BUNDESLIGA

Yesterday's results
Bayer Leverkusen 2 Freiburg 2
Stuttgart 3 Bayern Munich 5

ITALY

SERIE A

Yesterday's results
Bari 1 Palermo 1
Catania 1 Brescia 0
Chievo Verona 1 Juventus 1
Lazio 3 Udinese 2
Napoli 1 Lecce 0
Parma 0 Bologna 0
Sampdoria vs. Genoa (ppd., snow)

SPAIN

LA LIGA

Yesterday's results
Almeria 2 Getafe 3
Malaga 0 Atletico Madrid 3
Osasuna 0 Zaragoza 0
Real Madrid 1 Sevilla 0

SKIING

WOMEN'S SUPER-COMBINED

At Val D'isere, France
1. Lindsey Vonn, U.S., two minutes 7.80 seconds (1:18.66-49.14); 2. Elisabeth Goergl, Austria, 2:08.26 (1:19.44-48.82); 3. Nicole Hosp, Austria, 2:08.49 (1:18.96-49.53) **Also: 12. Marie-Michele Gagnon, Lac Etchemin, Que., 2:09.95 (1:21.35-48.60)**
World Cup Super Combined Standings
(after one event)
1. Lindsey Vonn, U.S., 100 points; 2. Elisabeth Goergl, Austria, 80; 3. Nicole Hosp, Austria, 60; 4. Anna Fenninger, Austria, 50; 5. Maria Riesch, Germany, 45; 6. Michaela Kirchgasser, Austria, 40; 7. Daniela Merighetti, Italy, 36; 8. Tina Maze, Slovenia, 32; 9. Johanna Schnarf, Italy, 29; 10. Margret Altacher, Austria, 26.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New England	12	2	0	.857	446	303
N.Y. Jets	10	4	0	.714	295	259
Miami	7	7	0	.500	239	261
Buffalo	4	10	0	.286	273	353

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	8	6	0	.571	381	342
Jacksonville	8	6	0	.571	319	365
Tennessee	6	8	0	.429	322	282
Houston	5	9	0	.357	333	386

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Pittsburgh	10	4	0	.714	307	220
Baltimore	10	4	0	.714	324	253
Cleveland	5	9	0	.357	252	271
Cincinnati	3	11	0	.214	281	362

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	9	5	0	.643	322	281
San Diego	8	6	0	.571	388	260
Oakland	7	7	0	.500	353	330
Denver	3	11	0	.214	292	415

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	10	4	0	.714	412	339
N.Y. Giants	9	5	0	.643	360	288
Washington	5	9	0	.357	268	343
Dallas	5	9	0	.357	354	396

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Atlanta	12	2	0	.857	369	261
New Orleans	10	4	0	.714	354	270
Tampa Bay	8	6	0	.571	280	290
Carolina	2	12	0	.143	183	350

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	9	4	0	.692	253	228
Green Bay	8	6	0	.571	333	220
Minnesota	5	8	0	.385	230	274
Detroit	4	10	0	.286	308	329

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
St. Louis	6	8	0	.429	258	295
Seattle	6	8	0	.429	279	363
San Francisco	5	9	0	.357	250	314
Arizona	4	10	0	.286	255	370

x — clinched playoff berth.

WEEK 15

Yesterday's results
Atlanta 34 Seattle 18
Baltimore 30 New Orleans 24
Buffalo 17 Miami 14
Carolina 19 Arizona 12
Cincinnati 19 Cleveland 17
Dallas 33 Washington 30
Detroit 23 Tampa Bay 20 (OT)
Indianapolis 34 Jacksonville 24
Kansas City 27 St. Louis 13
N.Y. Jets 22 Pittsburgh 17
Oakland 39 Denver 23
Philadelphia 38 N.Y. Giants 31
Tennessee 31 Houston 17
New England 31 Green Bay 27
Tonight's game
(All times Eastern)
Chicago at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.

FOOTBALL

NCAA

BOWL GAMES

Saturday's results
NEW MEXICO BOWL
At Albuquerque, N.M.
Brigham Young 52 Texas-El Paso 24
HUMANITARIAN BOWL
At Boise, Idaho
Northern Illinois 40 Fresno State 17
NEW ORLEANS BOWL
Troy 48 Ohio 21

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- "ANY ILLNESS HAS HEALING"

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metro play

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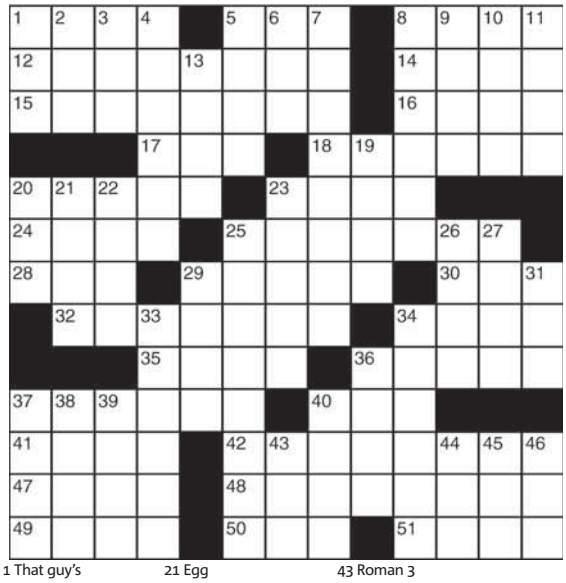
Crossword



Across

1 Hula Hoop holders?
5 Drunkard
8 Staff leader?
12 Badge of authority
14 Georgetown athlete
15 Creamless liquid
16 On the rocks
17 Baby's soft food
18 Card game that also means "swindle"
20 Transit fare, at times
23 Morse symbol
24 State with certainty
25 Ad slogan since 1993
28 Young dog
29 One of the S's in SST
30 "— the fields we go"
32 Unmanly man
34 Glenn of the Eagles
35 For fear that
36 Sports venue
37 Canada's capital
40 Literary collection
41 Armstrong's landing site
42 Dairy employee
47 Therefore
48 Situation with only two options
49 See 9-Down
50 — de Janeiro
51 Say it isn't so

Down

1 That guy's
2 Pen filler
3 Omega preceder
4 Smirk
5 Quick cut
6 Lubricate
7 Heed someone's advice
8 Arty
9 With 49-Across, monster's home?
10 Watchful one
11 Disappear gradually
13 Federal agt.
19 Gomer Pyle's org.
20 Spigot
21 Egg
22 French military headgear
23 "— pass Go, ..."
25 Cobwebby
26 Traditional tales
27 Acute
29 Twist
31 Flat-piled rug
33 Grassy plains
34 Made to look guilty
36 Egyptian cross
37 Portent
38 Ripped
39 Apparel
40 Singing voice
43 Roman 3
44 Exist
45 Charged bit
46 Thirsty

▶ Yesterday's answer

P	A	C		A	D	O	S		S	E	R	B
A	N	A		N	I	N	A		C	I	A	O
W	I	T	H	D	R	A	W		A	R	G	O
			H	U	R	T			D	R	E	A	M
S	T	O	R	E		P	L	E	A			
L	U	L	L		D	R	A	W	B	A	C	K
O	B	I		T	O	A	D	Y		S	H	E
B	A	C	K	B	O	N	E		S	T	A	G
			H	A	R	K		F	A	U	N	S
M	O	L	A	R			G	I	S	T		
A	M	O	K		B	O	N	E	H	E	A	D
T	E	R	I		R	E	A	R		L	Y	E
E	N	D	S		A	R	T	Y		Y	E	N

Sudoku

	2		4		8		1	
6								2
		5	6		9	4		
	6		8	4	2		5	
	3						2	
	8		1	9	3		4	
		1	7		6	8		
3								5
	7		9		5		3	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

9	6	7	5	3	4	8	1	2
1	5	3	8	6	2	9	7	4
2	8	4	7	1	9	6	3	5
3	7	2	4	5	6	1	8	9
6	9	5	1	8	7	4	2	3
4	1	8	9	2	3	7	5	6
7	3	6	2	4	1	5	9	8
8	4	1	3	9	5	2	6	7
5	2	9	6	7	8	3	4	1

Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Happy Birthday Swica!!! I love you endlessly and am very glad we found each other. I hope we spend all of your birthdays together! Also, hope you liked your surprise:D ja tebe duje kohaju! **KAT**

Dear Daniel, we have officially lasted 4 years without killing eachother. That deserves many more years to enjoy together. Love you so much, sugarbunny. **CAROLE**

to my SpudMuffin
You are everything I never knew I wanted or needed. I am incredibly happy and want the whole world to know it. I love you with all my heart. **DA BEEACHIE**

Erica,
I love you more than anything on Earth. You're the ice cream on my cherry pie. **THOMSON MIDDLEBOTTOM**

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You will be on the go non-stop today. The moment you get one task out of the way, another will need to be dealt with. Important people will be impressed.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Be careful what you agree to over the next two or three days because the approaching lunar eclipse will blur the line between fact and fantasy. This is not a good time to be reckless with money or reputation.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Even if you are the most even-tempered Gemini, something or someone will wind you up a bit today. Whatever it is, you must find ways to defuse the situation.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You may be confused as to what's happening in the world but there is no point worrying. Nothing bad is going to happen, so promise yourself that you will stay calm at all times.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 It does not matter how hard you work today – others will find fault with everything you do. In which case, why do anything? They need you more than you need them.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Why do some people focus on negative things while ignoring all the good that goes on in the world? Whatever the reason, you will have to deal with one such individual today. Don't let him or her depress you.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 If you are not entirely happy with your current situation there is still time to change it, but you have got to be quick.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You need to take extra care today, and tomorrow, as the lunar eclipse in Gemini warns that you could lose out financially if you don't keep track of your money.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 The approaching eclipse seems to be playing havoc with other people's emotions, so be ready for some over-the-top scenes. You, of course, will stay calm and have a good laugh at their expense. Life is endlessly amusing.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Forget about the things that went wrong over the previous 12 months. What you achieve over the next 12 months will more than make up for it.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 It may be tempting to deal with problems by pretending they don't exist, but you know that isn't the answer. Tomorrow's eclipse will bring a personal issue to a head. This time, you must, and will, deal with it.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 Today's cosmic movements will make it difficult for you to make up your mind, but that could be a good thing. A lot is going to change over the next few days.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

PAT ROQUE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Not available in conjunction with other offers. §2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL/1OD (2.4L ECOTEC I-4 engine, automatic transmission) 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD/1TA (2.4L ECOTEC I-4 engine, automatic transmission) 2011 Toyota Camry and 2011 Ford Fusion. Fuel consumption ratings based on Natural Resources Canada's 2010 Fuel Consumption Guide. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. ΔΔ2011 Chevrolet Malibu with 6-speed automatic transmission and 2.4L Ecotec engine and comparably equipped (4 cyl. automatic transmission) 2011 Toyota Camry and 2011 Ford Fusion. Fuel consumption ratings based on Natural Resources Canada Fuel Consumption Website. Highway fuel consumption as low as 5.9 L/100km. City fuel consumption as low as 9.4 L/100km. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. Excludes hybrid models. 2011 Chevrolet Equinox FWD equipped with standard 2.4L ECOTEC I-4 engine. Fuel consumption ratings based on GM testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada test methods. 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Rates from other lenders will vary. Example: $10,000 at 0% APR, monthly payment is $138.89/$208.33 for 72/48 months. Cost of borrowing is $0/$0, total obligation is $10,000/$10,000. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. ΔΔ2011 Chevrolet Malibu with 6-speed automatic transmission and 2.4L Ecotec engine and comparably equipped (4 cyl. automatic transmission) 2011 Toyota Camry and 2011 Ford Fusion. Fuel consumption ratings based on Natural Resources Canada Fuel Consumption Website. Highway fuel consumption as low as 5.9 L/100km. City fuel consumption as low as 9.4 L/100km. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. Excludes hybrid models. 2011 Chevrolet Equinox FWD equipped with standard 2.4L ECOTEC I-4 engine. Fuel consumption ratings based on GM testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada test methods. 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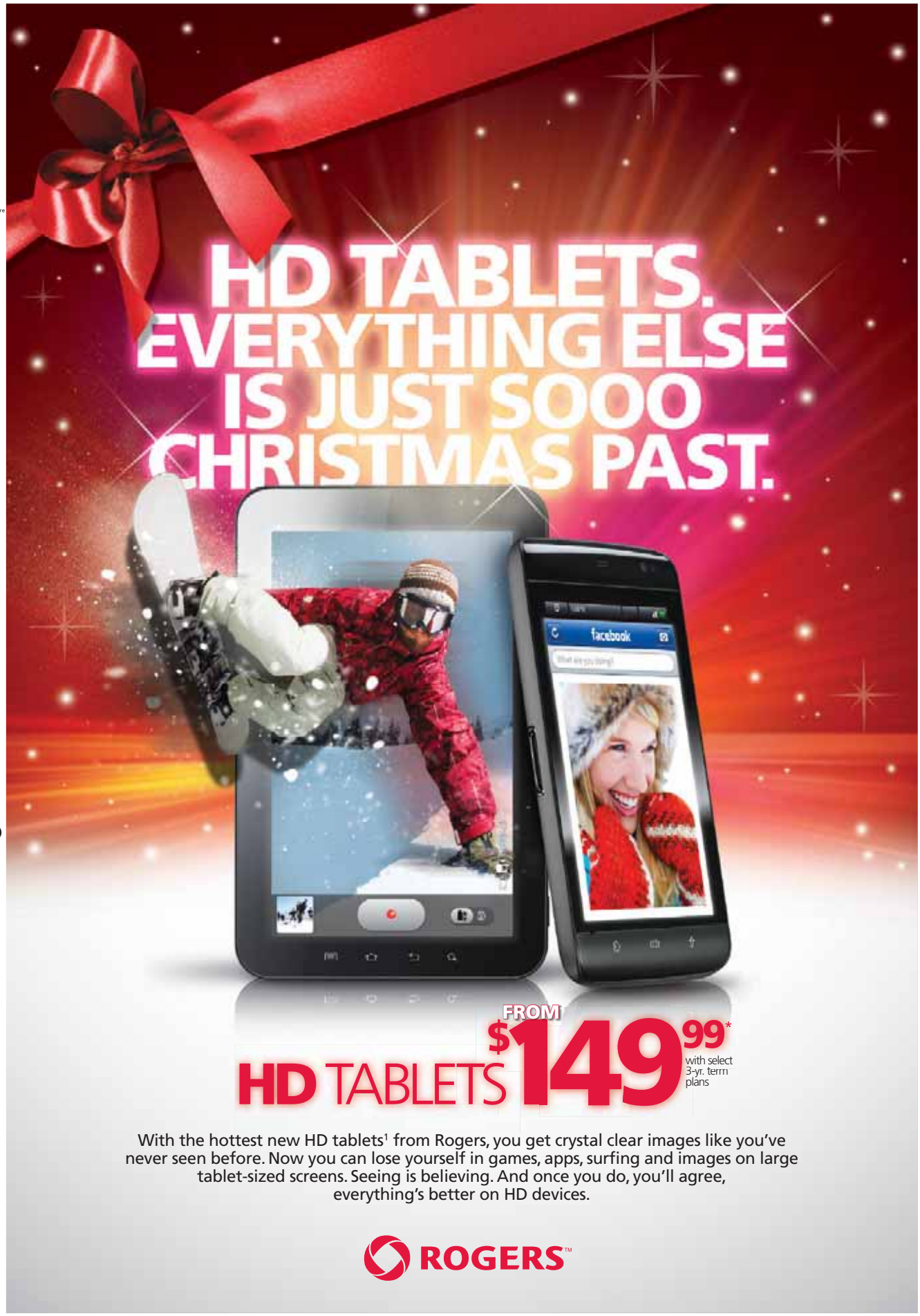

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